

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

N° 2020.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1855.

Price Fourpence.
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MINERALOGY.—KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—Professor TENNANT, F.G.S., will give a COURSE OF LECTURES ON MINERALOGY, with a view to facilitate the study of Geology, and of the application of Mineral Substances in the Arts. The lectures will be illustrated by an extensive Collection of Specimens, and commenced on Friday, Oct. 5, at Nine o'clock A.M. They will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday and Friday at the same hour.

R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

OWEN'S COLLEGE, MANCHESTER. (In connexion with the University of London.)—THE COLLEGE WILL OPEN for the Session, 1855-6, on Monday, the 5th day of October next: and the Examination, previous to the admission of proposing Students, will commence on that day, and be continued on following days, at ten o'clock A.M., at the College. The Session will close in July, 1856.

There is a statement of the course of instruction which will be given in the several departments, see advertisement published in the Literary Gazette of the 13th September.

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CONTENTS:

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4. THE COURTS OF JUSTICE.
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DURING the last session of Parliament, a constitution was granted to Victoria, the youngest and most energetic of the Australian colonies. Although the settlement of many questions of importance to the colony is transferred from the mother-country to the local legislature, Englishmen must continue to feel deep interest in the affairs of one of the finest dependencies of the British crown and one of the most attractive fields of emigration. Of this interest a remarkable proof was afforded in the discussion lately carried on in the London newspapers, in regard to the land question in the colony. Some statements in Mr. Howitt's book, as to the difficulty of emigrants procuring land, have been vehemently denied, and the controversy is still warmly kept up. It appears that the whole of the land, within desirable distance of the capital, is in the possession of squatters and proprietors, who had obtained it before the recent influx of a numerous population, consequent on the gold discoveries. The local government has had a difficult part to play, between the firm assertion of prior rights in the old settlers, and the loud demands of the new comers. Mr. Howitt says, that owing to the very partial population of the country, the landowners will be able to make a bold and vigorous stand against the people, but that the masses must ultimately prevail; and that the enfranchisement of the land will originate an emigration from this country, which will broaden and deepen with years, and produce a prosperity which will be equally felt in the colony and in the mother-country. His account of the existing state of matters is, however, called in question. No such difficulties as he represents, it is affirmed, really stand in the way, and an intending emigrant may well be puzzled amidst such conflicting statements. We have only to observe, that the now independent colonial legislature can easily put an end to all doubt on the subject, by new regulations as to the sale of land, or by declaratory acts explaining the system now authorized by the government. Till this is done, we cannot set aside as unworthy of credit the reports of an intelligent and impartial witness like Mr. Howitt, who thus describes the condition of the colony:—

"Do you see the quarterly summaries of the state of this colony which are regularly published in the 'Melbourne Argus' for circulation in England? Making due allowance for the colouring which their enthusiasm about the colony naturally gives, you will there learn the substantial facts of its progress and position. For instance, they tell you, in the summary just issued, that this is so incurably drunken a people that nothing will be of any use but excluding all spirituous liquors altogether by the Maine Liquor Law. That the publicans are the richest and most worthless set of men in the colony. That the members of Government are so deeply engaged in land speculations, that

they will not yet throw open the land; and that the bits of land sold near the diggings do not benefit the diggers, for they are too dear for them, but are snapped up by insatiable speculators. That the people who land in Melbourne find that they might just as well have sat down on Wimbledon-common, as to any chance they have of buying land at a price that they could live upon;—the game going on between the Government officials, who are constantly dabbling in land, and a gang of the most hungry, unprincipled land-sharks that the world ever produced. That immigration, latterly, has greatly decreased, and is decreasing, owing to the dismal accounts sent home by disappointed people. They add, rather inconsistently, that these accounts have been transmitted by *unfit* people. But who are the *fitting* people to come out to a country such as they thus themselves sketch? The most drunken population in the world!—a population refused land to live on, and preyed on by the most voracious land-sharks! That surely is not a picture likely to attract immigrants. They complain that good schoolmasters and efficient clergymen do not come out. But, over and above this description that they give of the drunken population, and the Government gambling in land that immigrants cannot get, they tell us in almost every one of these summaries that they don't want *intellectual* people. They then ask clergymen and schoolmasters, who are essentially *intellectual* people. They want, they say, only workers; physical power—an animal creation of Gibeonites,—"hewers of wood and drawers of water." But schoolmasters and clergymen will naturally, even where most impelled by a sense of duty, wish to enjoy, to some extent, an intellectual environment. If they were willing to associate only, or chiefly, with such a class as that of navvies, jarvies, grooms, carmen, ignorant agricultural labourers, and the twenty or thirty thousand of exported felons, they need not go thirteen thousand miles for a similar luxury; they can have it by only walking into the next mews, the gin-shop at the corner, or the back-slums of any great town at home.

"They should recollect, that good skilled mechanics are now very generally an intellectual class, and that may account for the decrease in the emigration of this order. It cannot be the rate of wages, for that is unrivalled—from 8*l.* to 10*l.* a-week. But it appears that even that wonderful scale of remuneration will not draw them. No; they will never go out freely to any country where they have no eventual prospect of getting land. If they save money out of such high wages, with what hope would they save it? That of getting land, and living on their own property. A drunken population, that has no hope of getting cheap land, will always remain a drunken population. And who would wish himself and his children to make part and parcel of such a population?

"There is another great feature that destroys the attraction of immigration. It is that of all those who make money in the colony, hurrying home with it as soon as they get it. It argues that, though you might chance to get money in Victoria, you would not like to stay there; that there is some grand lack of attraction there; that there is a something that people are glad to get away from. It does not tally with the Elysian accounts of the climate and the country. If it be such a paradise, people at home say, why don't people stay in it? Yet everybody knows that everybody is running off at the first possible opportunity. Nay, the most zealous eulogists of the colony are amongst the very first to escape from it. You drop a word in some party overnight of dissatisfaction with something or other in the colony, and find yourself in a hornet's nest of fanatics in laudation of it, from its dust winds to its fly legions; but the next morning you are rather surprised to learn that these colonial enthusiasts have just gone on board the steamer for London, having sent their whole accumulated wealth before.

"Now what is the cause at the bottom of all this? Simply, and again and again, and evermore—the one grand, palpable, and permanent cause

—the prohibition of land sale. Never, while the United States lie only 3000 miles from England, and sell land, chooseable anywhere, at 5*s.* an acre, and Victoria lies 13,000 miles from England, and won't sell land for agricultural purposes at any price, will you get a fine, full, flowing emigration out here, such as America has, and these colonies could have on the same fair and common sense system. Never will you have a *settled* population here till you give up the land fully and freely for settlement. The harpy of speculation and the land-shark will continue to rake up around them, and grapple in their clutches the wealth of the colony, and fly off with it till land is cheap and plentiful, which is the same thing. The drunkard will continue a drunkard till he can buy land. Then, and not till then, will he go out from the circle of his temptations, and *root* himself down in the healthy soil, and regenerate himself, and make his family happy and his country flourish.

"Therefore it is useless for the able editors of the 'Argus' to seek for this or the other cause of diminished emigration, or to complain of *unfit* emigrants, or to warn off *intellectual* emigrants, or to wonder why schoolmasters and clergymen do not emigrate hither, so long as there is not land. If there were land—land everywhere, and for everybody—the intellectual might come; the more the better, for intellectual men love country life, and are capable of cultivating cheap land of their own; and the more the better again, that they might breathe a soul through the brute mass, shed refinement and intelligence around them, and offer points of attraction to a superior class to come over and settle.

"Therefore, land! land! land! should be the cry of the press here,—loud and incessant, till it takes effect."

Mr. Howitt gives a full account of the origin and history of the land tenure, and explains clearly how the present state of things is allowed to remain. If the members of the government and of the legislature do not speedily make some satisfactory arrangement, we fear that the question will not be settled without violence. As it is, the progress of the colony is checked, and we quite agree with Mr. Howitt's earnest appeals for the enfranchisement of land, coupled as they are with a recognition of the claims of settlers to fair compensation for the surrender of territory, now required for the benefit of the increased population:—

"Land for the public as fast as it wants it, and their runs for the squatters as long as they are not wanted for the settlement of the people, will be the two rules and maxims of Australian policy, too self-evident in their justice and benefit to all parties to be mistaken or misused. This knot once cut; land once free and plentiful as God and nature made it, then will the colonies run side by side a glorious race. Van Diemen's Land will flourish throughout its Lilliputian domain with the prosperity of its more gigantic sisters. Adelaide has already made vigorous progress by a wise policy. By sale of land at reasonable rates to its small capitalists, and by furnishing a good escort for the gold of the diggers who went thence to Victoria, she has secured them as cultivators on her soil; and while Victoria could furnish no produce from her own bosom for her fast accumulating people, she has been able not only to supply herself, but to send a surplus thither.

"Gold or no gold, give but Australia the free use of her own lands, and nothing can resist her progress."

Passing from this controverted subject, we find in Mr. Howitt's book most interesting notices of the colony and of its motley population. The gamins of Melbourne have more of the Yankee than of the old British character in them:—

"It will take a century to work this miscellaneous gathering of rude people out of the scum.

As they get money, they will, however, as in America, in time give their children some education; but out of them will grow, as is plain to see, a go-a-head, self-confident, Yankee sort of people. It is really amusing and amazing to see what a knowing race of lads there is already amongst them: lads perfectly precocious in their experiences; lads who have been wandering ever since they first got on their legs—partly at home, and partly in different colonies of this continent. They set up for themselves before most lads at home go out apprentices, and are doing business on their own account before they have a trace of beard on their chins. Their spring, like that of the climate here, is an almost indefinable streak between winter and summer.

"A boy of this class has often come up to our tent here. One day he came to me, as I was sitting on a trunk of a tree near the tent; and, resting his back against it, began to talk. 'A pretty flock of sheep, that,' said he, nodding his head towards a flock that he was watching. 'A pretty flock for a butcher at one time—about 200 of them.'

"'Yes,' I observed, 'a nice little flock. What does the butcher give you a day, now, for looking after them?'

"The butcher give me! Why he gives me nothing; they belong to me and my mate.'

"'What!' said I, 'a boy like you in business already?'

"'Why, as to that,' said he, 'I have been in business a good while now,' and so he went on to tell me his story. He was a slim, good-looking lad, of fourteen or fifteen. He was originally from London, but so long ago that he did not know from what part of it. His father, he said, was down in Melbourne, carting water, and, as he expressed it, was always putting his hand into his pocket, not to pull out money, but to put it in. He himself went to the diggings, and got enough to purchase a horse and cart. But he had scarcely got to work, carting washing-stuff for the diggers, when the horse was claimed as a stolen one. This, he said, sickened him of horseflesh; so he sold his cart, and joined the butcher; his present partner, in carrying stores to the diggings in a bullock-dray; and next, in fetching cattle out of New South Wales. The butcher, his mate, had a station at Yass, in New South Wales; it was there they went, about 300 miles; and when they had sold their stores, they were going there again.

"It was pretty evident that, amongst their various business concerns, he and his mate kept a sly grog-shop; and it was very amusing to hear him tell how they contrived to trick, what he called 'the fools of Commissioners.'

The civic condition of Melbourne is flourishing, and it is gratifying to read of the following marks of civilization, in a scene which half a century ago was an unpeopled waste:

"The Gas Company promises to light up the streets of Melbourne in another six months, as well as those of any English town; and coal of excellent quality is ready for the getting both at Cape Patterson and on the Barrabool Hills.

"The electric telegraph, already working between Melbourne and Williams Town, will soon be extended to the Heads. The railway from Melbourne to Liardet's Beach is complete, and only awaits the arrival of engineers and carriages from England. Melbourne boasts its half-a-dozen banks, all most flourishing concerns; namely, —the Bank of Australasia; the Union Bank of Australia; Bank of New South Wales; Bank of Victoria; London Chartered Bank; and English, Scottish, and Australian Bank. Some of these banks pay a dividend of 40 per cent.; and, by a statement published just now, they have an aggregate circulation and deposits of 8,876,166.

"Among the public institutions of this rising capital, are,—the Botanic Gardens, the Mechanics' Institution, the Philosophical Society, its Educational System, and in connexion with that its projected University.

"The Botanic Gardens I have already spoken of; but it ought to be mentioned, in connexion with

them and the botanical science of the colony, that Victoria is most fortunate in the services of Dr. Müller, as the official colonial botanist. Dr. Müller is not only a gentleman of profound acquirement in his department of science, but of indefatigable energy and enthusiasm. Already he has made wide explorations; and under his hands the extensive and curious flora of Victoria will be made more completely known than that of any equally remote region. And here I may say, that whatever were the defects of Mr. La Trobe, as a Colonial Governor—defects unquestionably originating in timidity—he was ever ready to promote the moral and intellectual progress of the colony. The appointment of a State botanist and State geologist, evidence not only this fact, and that of his Excellency's own tastes, but the whole official provision for science, education, and religion, do the highest honour to his administration.

"The Mechanics' Institution is also literary society. It includes an extensive library, and lectures are frequently given there. The Philosophical Society is intended to be the Royal Society of Victoria, to be established by Royal charter. It is yet quite in its infancy, but enumerates some of the most distinguished men of the colony amongst its supporters, and has already had very valuable papers read before it by Dr. Müller, by its President, and other gentlemen. As a proof of the attention to strangers by those Institutions, I may mention that they both did me the honour to elect me an honorary member.

"The colony sets a splendid example to the mother country in the item of support to education. While, I believe, the amount of direct grants for educational purposes in the United Kingdom do not exceed 250,000*l.*, this colony, of only 250,000 persons, voted, in 1853, 79,000*l.*, and in 1854, 155,000*l.* The schools to which support is given are divided into Denominational schools and National, each under a Board. The National something resemble the Home Government schools in Ireland; the Denominational include those of every sect and church in the colony."

Convicts and convict labour, the gold diggings and their influence on the general prosperity of the colony, and other topics, are fully discussed by Mr. Howitt, and as might be expected from a warm lover of nature, as well as a shrewd observer of life, there are graphic descriptions of the scenery and the products of the country. He ends his work with a glowing picture of the probable destiny of the Australian empire, of which Victoria will form one of the finest parts:—

"England, in fact, is here re-producing herself on a larger scale; but the immigrants of to-day only feel the tumblings and rushings together of the yet unexplained chaos. To us this is a strange land, to the next generation it will be the native land. Born, therefore, to love it, they will push on its growth to greatness. The sons and daughters of the soil will grow up amid all the endearing associations of a mother country. To them, the inverted seasons will possess no inversion. To them, the gum-tree and the wattle will assume the place of the oak and the elm. The warbling crow and the laughing jackass will be their blackbird and hereditary rook. To them, the smooth outlines of the Australian landscape will appear as charming as to us the more abrupt and picturesque scenery of the northern hemisphere. New interests, new histories, and new hopes, will surround them with the genuine charms of existence. They are the after generations who will feel the comforts, and enjoy the glories of the advancing creation of an austral world. In their hands, and by the vigour of their genius, Australia in its totality will rapidly, and by the clear design of Providence, advance into one more august section of that race which from England—the ancient heart of Christianity, freedom, and civilisation,—is encompassing the earth. Westward, America; eastward, India; southward, Africa; and in this scheme, far greater than Africa, Australia, are organising the grand future of humanity, whose ultimate triumph of religion,

liberty, science, brotherly unity and happiness, will blend themselves into the broad day of the distant millennium.

"Therefore, while gazing down this glorious vista of progressing certainties, let us cordially cry, 'Advance Australia!' and so treat her in her infancy, that she shall remember us with grateful affection in the power and splendour of her maturity."

MR. CALDWELL'S volume is valuable from the statistical information it contains on commercial and social subjects. In an introductory notice he criticises Mr. Howitt's book, and pointing out some errors into which he has fallen, says that it must be read as a work of fiction not of fact. The examples cited by Mr. Caldwell do not warrant this summary condemnation. For instance, the very first statement found fault with is, that "before the gold discovery this colony was almost entirely Scotch." Mr. Caldwell gives the details of the census of 1846 to show that this is an error; but no one misunderstood Mr. Howitt's statement, which was true in the same way that India has often been spoken of as a Scotch colony. At Melbourne many of the largest landowners and leading merchants were Scotch, and the house to which Mr. Caldwell belongs has probably the same original nationality. However, it is well to have accuracy in a descriptive book, and the counter-statements of Mr. Caldwell are acceptable to those in quest of statistical facts. A large portion of the book is therefore occupied in setting forth the advantages of emigration to Australia, and the peculiar attractions of Victoria. In a separate chapter, an account of labour and the labour market affords useful practical information to various classes. Some curious notices of the numerous Chinese immigrants are here given. The banking system of Victoria, the various institutions, political and commercial, and the trade and resources of the colony, are fully described. While the work is prepared for the commercial community rather than for general readers, it is full of plain and practical information, and deserves to be studied by intending emigrants. A very good map of the colony is appended to the volume. The conclusion of Mr. Caldwell's book is not less enthusiastic than that of Mr. Howitt. He says:—

"I have shown that the gold discoveries have drawn together a population eminent for energy, and not inferior as a whole to the population of the best parts of the United Kingdom in freedom from crime,—in fact, that the immigrant in Australia is almost free from crime; and that, but for the escaped convicts from the adjoining settlements, Victoria would present the aspect of a people with an almost entire immunity from crime. I have shown that, as a community, it is the richest in the world; and that all the bankruptcies so much talked of do not amount to any appreciable per centage on the business transactions of the colony; that Victoria is the most valuable dependency of the British crown; that its people are an orderly and a religious people; that the climate is a good climate; and that the country has yet room for many millions of immigrants."

MR. WATHEN'S book is professedly a scientific work, giving a description of the geology of the district, and of the Australian gold-fields generally, as well as of the physical geography of such parts of Australia as are known to travellers and explorers. Thus, after describing the mountain ranges of the southern regions of this vast continent, Mr. Wathen tells of the new highway recently opened up in the navigation of the River Murray:—

"To the north all these mountain ranges gradually sink into the immeasurable plains of the interior, through which wind the Murray—the Mississippi of Australia—and its thousand tributary streams. This great river is supposed to be navigable as far as Albany, or 1900 miles from its mouth; its importance, as the great natural artery for the traffic of the interior of the continent, is only now beginning to be understood. It is rather more than twelve months since the first attempt was made on a large scale to ascertain its navigability. In September and October, 1853, Captain Cadell, accompanied by Sir Henry Young, the Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, ascended the river in a steamer of 40-horse power, from near its mouth to 150 miles above Swan Hill, that is, 1450 miles in all. Sir H. Young details the results of this voyage in two interesting despatches to the Colonial Secretary, which will be found in the Appendix. At the highest point that he reached, the Murray was 200 yards wide and 3 fathoms deep. The Murrumbidgee river, a great tributary to the Murray, Sir H. Young believes to be navigable 700 miles from the junction. The navigation of the entrance to the Murray from the sea is beset with difficulties; but these are obviated by a railway seven miles in length, recently completed, connecting the river terminus on the Lake Alexandrina with Port Elliot in Encounter Bay. Captain Cadell's steamer brought down the first cargo of wool from the squatting stations on the river banks; and the Lieutenant-Governor is sanguine that the result of this successful voyage will be the establishment of the Murray as the great highway of inland communication to the three colonies, and especially to the Victoria Gold Diggings; and further, that, ere long, thriving agricultural settlements will spring up along the alluvial margin of the river."

The history of the discovery of the gold fields is fully discussed, and due merit being awarded to Mr. Clarke for his correct speculations, and to Mr. Hargreaves for his practical explorations, the chief honour is awarded to the scientific geologist who announced unhesitatingly the existence of the precious metal, from the examination of the specimens brought home by Count Strzelecki:—

"To Sir Roderick Murchison, the explorer of the Ural gold regions, must be awarded the honour of having first announced to Europe that gold ought to be, and probably would be found in the local *débris* of what he called the Australian Cordillera. Sir Roderick's conclusions were drawn from the observations of Count Strzelecki in New South Wales and an examination of the specimens brought home by the Count, illustrated and illuminated by Sir Roderick's generalisations from his own observations in the Ural Mountains. This announcement, made in 1844 to the Royal Geographical Society, is a striking attestation to the uniformity of the operations of Nature in different and distant regions of the globe, and to the sagacity of the geologist whose prediction was thus remarkably verified."

Of the actual discovery of the precious metal at early periods, authentic tales are told, but to Mr. Hargreaves belongs the credit of leading the way to the actual mining district, which he recognised by its similarity to tracts with which he had been familiar in California. Of the occupations and habits of the diggers we have had abundant accounts, but there may be novelty to some of our readers in the following descriptive ode:—

SUCH IS LIFE ON THE FOREST CREEK.

"When the sun shoots forth his rosy beams,
At the early dawn of morning,
Up starts the digger from golden dreams,
A life of laziness scorning:
Digging here,
Cradling there,
Readily, merrily,
Cheerily, steadily,
Toiling hard for the gold we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

"We first mark out a good large square,
On a likely spot of ground, Sir,
And we say if gold is anywhere,
'Tis here it ought to be found, Sir:
Trying here,
Prospecting there,
Carefully, warily,
Knowingly, charily,
Thus a likely 'pitch' we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

"Then ten to one comes a bouncing blade,
To swear you've taken his ground, Sir,
'Why, you crawler, see, the mark of my spade
Is a foot within your bound, Sir:
Swearing here,
Tearing there,
Angrily bouncing,
Threatening, trouncing,
Forced to fight for the gold we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

"You've twice more ground than you can begin,
Are you marking out for farming?
Not so big as the stockyard you've pitched in,
So give us no more yarning:
Warring here,
Jarring there,
Noisily wrangling,
Always jangling,
Quarrelling o'er the gold we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

"But when disputes are squared at last,
To work we go with a will, Sir,
The pick and spade fly quick and fast
The empty purse to fill, Sir:
Shovelling here,
Picking there,
Hardly toiling,
Sorely moiling,
Fairly earned is the gold we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

"When the 'speaks' at last begin to show,
Out comes the ready knife, Sir,
And cautiously follows the vein below
With the precious nuggets rife, Sir,
Peering here,
Poking there,
Softly, warily,
Scraping charily,
Hunting sharp for the gold we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

"With the setting sun our work is o'er,
And we homeward trudge our way, Sir,
And think of our toil and sweat no more,
As we count the gains of the day, Sir,
Weighing here,
Dividing there,
Justly, fairly,
Acting squarely,
Sharing out the gold we seek,
Such is life on the Forest Creek!"

In the narrative of one of his excursions into the interior, describing the unbroken primeval forests in the dells of the Cape Otway Hills, we have an account of trees that appear of surprising dimensions:—

"Some that we roughly measured were fifty and sixty feet in circumference five feet from the ground. From thirty to forty feet was perhaps the average girth. Even the lightwood tree grows to a height of a hundred feet. The larger trees are generally hollow near the roots; sometimes the interior forms a vast cave. They stand straight and erect as fir-trees, which gives the forest an Alpine character. In some the exterior takes the form of graceful Gothic mouldings, and reminds you of the majestic piers of a cathedral nave. The colossal limbs and roots, roughened by huge excrescences and fantastically contorted, often assume the most grotesque and *bizarre* forms. All the foliage is at the summit, and thus enjoys the influences of light and sunshine and wind. Who shall tell during how many centuries these patriarchs of the forest have been attaining their enormous bulk? Are they contemporaries of the venerable 'cedar saints' of Mount Lebanon? There was no voice of bird nor chirp of insect; all animal life appeared to have perished in the universally raging flames. The wind whistled through their branching tops, far, far over our head. Occasionally was heard the distant crash of a falling trunk, deep and low—the avalanche of the forest!"

The 'raging flames' in this description refer to the fires by which the undergrowth of the forests is frequently consumed, as in another place it is said:—

"On all sides were gigantic trees, tall, and run-

ning up a hundred feet without throwing off a single branch. The trunks were completely charred externally, the flames having reached up about a hundred feet, as they fed upon the undergrowth, but the loftiest tops appeared to have escaped. The tops, however, were lost in cloud and mist, so that accurate observation was impossible. Nothing could be more desolate and cheerless. It was too dreary, too monotonously wild even for Salvator Rosa and his bandits."

Mr. Wathen's book is illustrated with engravings from sketches taken on the spot, which show well the characteristic features of the country, while numerous sections exhibit its geological formation. While the scientific descriptions form the prominent feature of the work, it also gives lively sketches of the various phases of colonial life.

Recollections of the Mess-table and the Stage.
By Henry Curling, Author of 'The Soldier of Fortune,' &c. Bosworth.

THIS volume, as its title indicates, contains miscellaneous scraps of mess-table chat and green-room gossip. The anecdotes of the stage are chiefly reported from the reminiscences of the celebrated comedian, Samuel Russell—Jerry Russell, as he was commonly called—and refer to persons and circumstances not familiar to the present generation of readers or playgoers. The author states that he became acquainted with Russell a few years before his decease, and that he preserved notes of some of the anecdotes with which he entertained his friends, about scenes he had witnessed during his long professional career. Interspersed with these dramatic reminiscences are anecdotes of camp life and other military varieties, the whole being presented in detached stories without any attempt at formality of arrangement. Some of the shorter anecdotes we select for extract, from which the variety of the contents of Mr. Curling's amusing volume may be seen. We begin with some of the military anecdotes:—

Picton at Waterloo.

"I once heard an anecdote of Picton, from an officer who was himself at Waterloo.

"Picton, I was told by this officer, was wounded the day before Waterloo, but had concealed his hurt, and with the most heroic fortitude remained in the field. During the night, however, the agony of his wound obliged him to send for a surgeon, who remained with him until dawn; and, on his leaving, Picton thus addressed him:

"'You say that my wound is dangerous—mortal; that I am unfit for duty, and must be represented so to the Duke?'

"'Such is my opinion,' said the medical man. 'I think it would be impossible for you to take command of your division.'

"'Leave me to judge of that, sir,' said Picton, 'and in the meanwhile, allow me to ask you a question. From your long knowledge of me, do you consider me capable of strictly keeping my word?'

"'I have every cause to believe so,' returned the surgeon; 'but why the question, Sir Thomas?'

"'Simply for this reason,' returned Picton, 'that I have made up my mind to be in the field with my brigade; and I give you my word of honour, both as a gentleman and a soldier, that if you place my name in your report as unfit for duty, I will shoot you with my own hand.'

"The surgeon shrugged his shoulders, shook Picton by the hand, and withdrew.

"The gallant General's name was accordingly omitted amongst the wounded; and, as his wish had often been expressed that he might die amidst the blaze of battle, he was gratified.

"The Duke at Waterloo.

"Whilst the Duke was cantering along the field, just before the battle began, and looking precisely as he might often have been observed when taking his ride through Hyde Park, he suddenly pulled up, put his glass to his eye, and remained looking intently at a group of mounted officers on the enemy's side.

"They were Napoleon and his staff.

"Whilst the Duke was observing them with some little curiosity, an aide-de-camp, seeing they were within cannon range, suggested that some balls might immediately be sent amongst them.

"The Duke took his glass from his eye in a moment, glanced indignantly at the officer, and peremptorily forbade any such measure. Clapping spurs to his horse, he pursued his career; and, with a cheerful smile, whilst his eye was everywhere, he conversed occasionally upon matters of moment, despatched his messengers, and made his arrangements, as any other man would have done at a review.

"Nothing, perhaps, in any age, could compare with the coolness, nonchalance, and at the same time consummate skill and wisdom with which the Duke moved the springs of the battle. There was, I have heard, not the slightest trace of excitement to be observed in his countenance or actions during the day. Minutes seemed years to men whilst the amazing pounding and wholesale slaughter was going on; but the Duke went and came, ordered matters and repaired disasters, as if at a sham fight or a review.

"That men counted the minutes of their lives while exposed to such slaughter as they saw around them, is evident from the following anecdote, which I had from the mouth of an officer of the Scotch Greys.

"Whilst the Greys were advancing through a shower of missiles, which knocked them about like ninepins in a bowling green, Major Clarke, one of the officers, addressing the comrade next him, made this inquiry—'How many minutes have we yet on earth, Chesney?' 'Three, at the very utmost, I should say,' returned the other. 'Nay, perhaps not one.'

"The next moment they were upon the enemy; and minutes, hours, and death itself were forgotten in the scene of slaughter which ensued.

"Both these officers survived the battle; one (afterwards Colonel Clarke) told me he had five horses shot under him. The desperate bravery of the Scotch Greys was indeed subject of comment and admiration, even amongst the French, long after the battle.

"Anecdote of Corunna.

"I have been told, by one who stood by in the field and looked upon the sight as he leant upon his musket for a few minutes during the battle of Corunna, that nothing could be more affecting than the sight of Sir John Moore as he was carried off the field.

"Six splendid-looking Highlanders in their picturesque costume (their mouths black with gunpowder, their marked features bearing a stern yet sorrowful expression, the dark plumes of their bonnets waving mournfully to their steps) bore him in a blanket past the soldier. To the rear a spring-cart was brought up as they slowly moved on, but the Highlanders would not consent to their wounded commander being placed in it. 'We can carry him more gently ourselves,' they said; 'and by keeping step carefully, there will be less motion.'

"In this way (the blanket soaked with blood) they bore their agonized burden to the rear. Sir John, while he was being thus carried, I understand, expressed great anxiety about Sir Arthur Paget. He seemed to wish to look on that chivalrous officer before he died, and to take a last farewell of him. 'Where is Paget?' he inquired; 'where is Paget?'

"The soldier who gave me a description of the scene, a grenadier of the 50th, gave me also an anecdote of one of his officers (Captain Cluny), who commanded the grenadier company of that regiment. This officer carried a heavy stick in his

hand, and whilst the fire was very fierce, he saw, immediately in front, a party of the enemy, lying perdu behind a sort of turf battery they had thrown up. Dashing at the spot, he sprung over the impediment, and (being a powerful man, more than six feet in height) he laid about him with such amazing strength and resolution, that in a few minutes he had either stricken down or captured the whole party (six in number); and this, too, without drawing his sword. He had, indeed, beaten them to his heart's content with his heavy stick, and on some of his men coming up, the whole were handed over to them and secured.

"Correspondence of the Duke of Wellington.

"'What a voluminous correspondence the great Duke must have had,' said a gentleman one morning, whilst speaking about the Duke of Wellington, amongst a set of loungers congregated before the club-rooms at Cheltenham.

"'And yet,' observed a cavalry officer, who had served under his Grace in the Peninsula, 'the Duke, I have heard, himself attends to the most trifling correspondence. For instance, a friend of mine, who was intimate with the Duke, told me the following story in exemplification of this. He was breakfasting one morning at Apsley House, and observed his Grace to smile whilst perusing one of his letters, and afterwards set it apart. Some time afterwards he found, on referring to that letter in conversation, that it had come from a lady totally unknown to the Duke, and who kept a boarding-school at Kensington. This lady solicited a particular favour from his Grace, namely, that he would recommend to her some non-commissioned officer, whose character stood high in his esteem, for the purpose of teaching her young ladies to walk.'

"Strange as this application was, it very much tickled his Grace's fancy: and during his morning ride, he called at the Senior United Service Club, and desired one of the servants to send immediately for Sergeant Murphy, of the Grenadier Guards. Upon the Sergeant's arrival, the Duke directed him to attend, in full uniform, at—House Academy, on the following morning, and mention to Miss — that the Duke of Wellington had sent him there to teach her young ladies to walk."

"The dramatic anecdotes, many relate to minor personages not now much known except in the annals of the stage, but they are curious from the notices of the customs and manners of bygone times. Russell used to tell strange adventures that befel him in his young days when he wandered about the country with strolling companies of players, in days when the roads were infested with highwaymen, and when travelling was in a ruder state than in the time of the well-appointed stage-coaches of our own early recollections. One of the best of these papers is a story of the Old Kent-road, in which a journey from Dover to London is graphically described, the literary and dramatic associations of the places being cleverly introduced. After passing the wolds between Dover and Sandwich, where the spirit of King Lear seems yet to stalk abroad, and leaving Canterbury and Rochester, and other old English sites, we come, in approaching London, to Gad's Hill:—

"Gad's Hill also, and the old inn there, used always to be a place of halt with a strolling party in former years. Some half-a-dozen would sit on the bench before the door, and, tankard in hand, revel in imaginings conjured up by the classic ground. At such times, they would speculate upon the probable wanderings of their great teacher, and think that, as a 'poor player' he had, perhaps, passed along that road, sat 'under the shade of melancholy boughs,' and taken his impression of the very scene which has since 'witched the world.'

"The days of crying 'Stand to a true man!' were not quite over a few years back, for whilst travelling this road in my early days with a companion, I met with an adventure. We were making our way to London on foot, and the shadows overtook us near Boughton-hill. The day had been louring, and dark and dismal looked the woodlands on either hand as we prepared to descend the steep declivity. As we did so, a post-chaise drove past, and whilst the postilion pulled up and put on the drag, two passengers alighted to walk down the hill.

"Hardly had they walked fifty yards ahead of us, when a couple of footpads sprang from the side of the road, and attacked them. The travellers resisted, and a desperate struggle ensued. We rushed down the hill to the rescue just as a pistol was discharged. One of the travellers fell, and the robbers escaped.

"Picking the wounded man up, we placed him in the chaise.

"'You had better get in also,' said the traveller who was unhurt. 'The robbers may return. I don't think my friend is much wounded, as I cannot perceive any flow of blood.'

"Accepting the invitation we jumped in; the postilion cracked his whip, and away we went, congratulating ourselves on escaping so well.

"On stopping at the inn at the bottom of the hill, three of the party got out, the fourth remained in the corner. His friend tried to help him out, and he fell prostrate in the road. He was dead—a bullet had penetrated the upper part of his forehead, and passed out at the top of the skull."

The following, we suppose, is one of Mr. Curling's own reminiscences of the stage:—

"The Kemble Eye.

"Those only who were on the stage with Mrs. Siddons, whilst playing a part with her, could have any idea of the power of her eye. In *Lady Macbeth*, it really seemed to possess all the awful majesty of a queen, in the days of unscrupulous deeds, when 'ruin leaped from the glance' of the powerful. It made the person on whom it was levelled almost blink and drop their own eyes. She cast such a look upon me once, when a lad, that I have never forgotten it. The Kemble eye was indeed peculiar. John had an eye like Mars to threaten and command. His glance, when he held 'an angry parle,' was wonderful. Then, indeed, could he turn on his adversary 'an eye of death.' Who that beheld it, can ever forget his look and countenance, when *King John* upbraids *Hubert* with *Arthur's* death?

"The glance of Charles, the chivalrous Charles, was equally fine in the parts he played. The bright, joyous, flashing, gallant, daring eye. The glance which, when suited to the voice, sent a thrill through every heart as he spoke the glorious words of *Faulconbridge* can never be surpassed, or perhaps equalled on the stage. His conception and representation of *Faulconbridge* was indeed the most perfect performance in my opinion ever seen. In every look, gesture, movement, even in the minutest details, it was altogether such an identification, that it always seemed to me a reality. I can imagine no other *Faulconbridge* to have lived. It was one of those rare instances in which we could say, this is indeed the man Shakespeare drew.

"Perhaps one of the finest stage effects ever witnessed, was the sudden sound of the approach of *John's* army, and the beautiful march, when *Chatillon* announces the coming of the English power—

"The interruption of their churlish drums
Cuts off more circumstance: they are at hand."

"The filing-in of the English forces, after *Chatillon's* description of them, and the gallant look and bearing of each man, as I remember it in the days of John Kemble, was indeed a dramatic treat. And then, what a description is the preceding speech, of an invading army! What a glowing, glorious picture has Shakespeare given of our warlike English, of the Norman period. Nothing in language can surpass it. Every word seems to strike dismay

into the French host, as they stand there. *Philip of France* quails as he listens—

'Then turn your faces from this paltry siege
And stir them up against a mightier task,
England, impatient of your just demands,
Hath put himself in arms. The adverse winds,
Whose leisure I have stay'd, have given him time
To land his legions all as soon as I.
With him along is come the mother queen,
An Até, stirring him to blood and strife;
With her, her niece, the Lady Blanche, of Spain;
With them, a bastard of the king deceased,
And all th' unsettled humours of the land.
In brief, a braver choice of dauntless spirits
Than now the English bottoms have waf' o'er
Did never float upon the swelling tide,
To do offence and seathe in Christendom.'

"Scenic effects, and the aid of costume, and all appliances to boot, will never, in my opinion, give such a picture of the period, and the man, as was seen when John Philip Kemble personated the Norman King. There was the might, the magnificence, the awful presence of terrible and unscrupulous majesty. The countenance, the glance, the terrible nature of *King John*, were displayed as no other actor will ever, I should think, bring the thing before us; and with Mrs. Siddons as *Constance*, and Charles Kemble as *Faulconbridge*, it seemed indeed a wonderful reality."

Among the other genial and amusing pieces, we have been much pleased with the story of the Mayor of Folkestone, Captain Dryasdust's Visit to the Cinque Ports, Harrowgate—a reminiscence of Auld Lang Syne, and a Pilgrimage to Stratford-on-Avon. It is a volume of varied and entertaining reading. The chapters on cruelty to animals, and on English customs as described by foreigners, have a higher purpose than mere amusement, and are creditable to the humanity and good sense of the author.

Travel and Adventures in the Province of Assam, during a Residence of Fourteen Years. By Major John Butler, 55th B.N.I. Smith, Elder, and Co.

A FORMER work by the same author, published anonymously under the title of 'Sketches of Assam by an Indian Officer,' contained the best account that had then appeared of that country, its products, and its people, especially the Hill Tribes, about whom little of an authentic kind was then known. In the present volume Major Butler records the results of further acquaintance with the highlands of the north-east frontier of our Indian empire. His professional duties, as assistant to the political agent, were most onerous and responsible, and the account of them gives a lively idea of the kind of service in which military men in civil employ in India are often engaged. The knowledge derived from education and study is no doubt essential for properly performing some of the duties, such as those of judge and magistrate; but the greater portion of the work is such as would, perhaps, be better done by a soldier, inured to hardship, ready in expedients, and with good judgment and right feeling, even though he could not obtain the minimum number of marks now required by the board of examiners for the civil service in India. We hope that the new regulations do not preclude the appointment of military officers, such as Major Butler, for special civil employ, whenever they may seem better qualified than members of the other service. One incident that occurred to Major Butler will illustrate the perils to which he was constantly exposed in his tours of inspection, as principal assistant of the district of Assam:—

"After a long day's march, on reaching my encampment close to a Thannah or police outpost,

I had made myself comfortable for the night in a snug little travelling tent about 10 P.M. A violent storm, attended with heavy rain, hail, lightning, and thunder came on. It was a dimly cold and wet night, and I was congratulating myself on my good fortune in having brought a capital tent, when suddenly a shrill shriek from the riding and baggage elephants made me aware that they had become alarmed, and had fled to the jungle. The roar of the elements, however, was so great that no orders could be given for their capture; for every servant had taken refuge from the storm in the huts in the market or village. At this moment a sudden gust of wind blew down my tent upon my bed; I was compelled to crawl out and make the best of my way, through torrents of rain, to the police outpost or Thannah, which was close by.

"On entering the building I was astonished to see the whole establishment of Ticklaks, or policemen, unconcernedly sitting round a log-wood fire on the ground. I had scarcely joined this snug party, and exchanged my wet clothes for a dry sheet to wrap round me, when the building was, by a sudden gust of wind, blown to the ground; and we all escaped uninjured under the platform or changs erected round the room as seats. Luckily the roof did not fall flat, or we should have been crushed to death. Our peril, however, was very great; we could not extricate ourselves, and there was every prospect of the roof catching fire, and of our being burned to death. We succeeded in partly smothering the flames by scraping up the earth floor with our hands, and throwing it on the fire; still the horror of our position was dreadful; every flash of lightning showed us too vividly the danger we were in, and the darkness succeeding the lightning rendered all efforts to escape unavailing. In this interval of despair we at last discovered a small hole in the roof, by which we all effected our escape, deeply grateful for our miraculous preservation in not being crushed by the falling building, or reduced to cinders by a roaring log-wood fire. The next morning the elephants were found and captured on the other side of the Boree Dulung river, having fled in the hail-storm and swum across the river, though their legs were bound with heavy chains."

Not long after this adventure the author was ordered to return to Central Assam, to take temporary charge of the Tezapore division, and in the transport of his baggage he met with the following disaster:—

"As west-country boats are seldom met with in Upper Assam, I had no alternative but to convey my baggage down the Burrompooter by some other expedient. I accordingly procured two canoes, tied them together, and, constructing a tolerable sized raft, put the whole of my traps on it, and set out without a day's delay. For my own accommodation the common Khel-nao, or pleasure-boat of the country, was all I desired, which being about fifty feet long and three and a half feet wide, with a grass roof over a portion forming a sleeping-berth, and only permitting a reclining or sitting posture, sufficed for a rapid journey of 200 miles.

"All went well for the first day, excepting that I parted company with the baggage raft. The next night the boatmen and servants slept on the open sand which formed the bed of the river in the rains, and the boat being apparently securely fastened to a stake driven in on the edge of the river, I retired to rest at an early hour. In the middle of the night I was awakened by the bubbling noise of water and the rolling motion of my boat, and on getting up to see what was the matter, I found I was drifting down the middle of the Burrompooter, rapidly passing prostrate trees and stumps; and that I had only one servant asleep in the front part of the boat, and he, like myself, knew not how to swim.

"In this dilemma there was no time to be lost; I accordingly put on my red woolen nightcap and pea-coat, seized a paddle, and set to work and rowed most heartily, placing the servant in the stern of the boat to steer with an oar. In an hour, however, the skin peeled off my hands, and,

for a while, I was obliged to bide my fate with patience, and watch the progress of the boat as she drifted past prostrate trees, and whirled round and round in the numerous eddies, or whirlpools, which render the Burrompooter so dangerous. As our safety, however, depended on my exertions to reach the shore, in a few minutes I again set to work with my paddle or oar, and, after the night was nearly gone, I at last had the satisfaction of seeing that I was near the high bank of Dikho Mookh. Another quarter of an hour's struggle enabled me to bring the boat under the bank, but the current was so rapid that I could not bring to, or stop the boat, and for some time I was in imminent danger of being crushed to death under the bank, which frequently fell in with an awful report or crash. Nevertheless, the danger of the open river was equally bad; so, as a last resource, I ran the head of the boat on the first projecting point of the bank we met with, and, instantly jumping on shore, fastened a rope round a root of a tree and brought my boat to for the night. The next morning I fired a gun, and my servants and boatmen, who were left behind on the sand-bank, having procured a canoe, joined me through the fog, wondering how I had escaped so perilous a night's journey caused by their carelessness in not fastening my boat securely. My baggage raft was still less fortunate, for it was wrecked in a storm on the sand-bank at Beshnauth. Some of my baggage was lost, and all that was saved was much damaged. My little stock of books had now been drenched in both the Ganges and Burrompooter, in following me in my travels through India. In these wild, remote lands, where books are our greatest friends, for once I felt my comforts had been abridged on this occasion, and, on first hearing of the incident, my equanimity was somewhat tried; but, having reached the end of my journey, Tezapore, the discomforts of the trip were soon forgotten."

At Tezapore he only remained a few months, when he was removed to the charge of the Now-Gong district in Southern Central Assam. This promised to be a more permanent appointment, which was desirable for the author, as he had been long in active service, and was accompanied by a wife and child of three years of age. But suddenly there came an order which again sent him on a career of peril and adventure:—

"During a period of twenty-seven years' service, it has seldom been my lot to enjoy, at one place, an undisturbed residence of more than a few months; some service or other has always kept me, I may say, nearly in perpetual motion. The permanent charge of a division, however, seemed to present a fair chance of becoming stationary at last. I had scarcely assumed charge of the division, when the vision vanished; orders suddenly came enjoining me to be prepared to conduct a military expedition into the Angahmee Nagan country, bordering on the territory of Muniepoor and Burmah. The object of the expedition was to meet the Angahmee Nagah chiefs, and, by a conciliatory intercourse, to prepare them to co-operate with me in repressing their annual murderous and marauding incursions against our more peaceable subjects; to survey and map the tract of country in question, and to open a regular communication with Muniepoor and Now-Gong, through the Angahmee country *via* Dheemahpoor, Sumokhoo-Ting, Poplongmaee, and Yang, which would facilitate trade, improve the condition of the hill tribes, and eventually lead to the abandonment of savage habits, and the peaceable and prosperous settlement of this barbarous tribe.

"Although naturally fond of excitement and adventures, I cannot say I felt much joy in being nominated to conduct such a mission, for I was aware there would be great fatigue in marching on foot through a mountainous wooded country, and that I should suffer considerable exposure both by night and day, through the extremes of temperature from heat to cold, coupled with some

personal danger; and, worse than all, with the best intentions and the utmost zeal, I might still fail to carry out the views of Government. However, as the life of a soldier consists in prompt obedience, I set to work cheerfully to make such arrangements as the nature of my journey required. I immediately made up a small tent seven feet by nine; laid in a supply of provisions, consisting of rice, dal, salt, &c., and other necessaries for the detachment and coolies, and sent off the whole stock from Golaghat up the river Dhuunseeree to Dhemahpoor, from which post I determined on entering the hills.

"A company of a hundred men of the 2nd Assam Light Infantry formed my escort under the command of a lieutenant; an apothecary to attend the sick, as well as an uncovenanted sub-assistant surveyor, completed our party. On the 20th November, 1845, we marched from Now-Gong."

The incidents of this expedition, and of future visits to the Hill Country, in which there was sometimes severe military service, occupy the chief part of the volume. So recently as 1851, the Angahmee Nagahs, a formidable hill tribe, proved so troublesome, that a military expedition, the ninth narrated in Major Butler's book, was sent to bring them to subjection. The storming of the strong hill fort, Konomah, after a sixteen hours' siege, put an end to the rebellion. Since that time the Indian troops in the British service have been withdrawn from the hills, the Government being anxious to avoid all unnecessary interference with the savage tribes beyond our own frontier. Of the various tribes of the hill country, their customs, habits, and institutions, Major Butler's book contains many interesting notices. An appendix contains statistical information as to the productions, revenue, population, and social condition of the districts of Now-Gong, of which, the author had charge. The general report as to the condition of the Assamese is satisfactory, and there is every encouragement to believe that they appreciate highly the advantages of being under British rule. The English residents and Christian missionaries have established schools, and institutions for industrial as well as moral training, and some progress has been made in educating the people. The revenue is increasing, and there are sure marks of improved civilization in the courts of justice, record offices, and the roads, bridges, and other public works. In all these respects Major Butler reports a gratifying change since he first knew the country in 1837. The volume contains a carefully prepared map, plans, and illustrations.

Meteorological Essays. By François Arago. With an Introduction by Baron Alexander Von Humboldt. Translated under the superintendence of Colonel Sabine, V.P.R.S. Longman and Co.

This first volume of the collected works of Arago contains his Meteorological Papers, and an Essay on Terrestrial Magnetism. The latter, though a posthumous publication, seems to have been written at an early period of his scientific career. Great advances have since been made in this branch of terrestrial physics, and some of the views of the distinguished French philosopher must have been modified in after life. An abstract is given of the results of the magnetical observations made with great care and labour between 1820 and 1835, and the deductions from these observations, calculated by M. Barral and Thoman, at M. Arago's request, are now for the first time made public. The failure of

M. Arago's health and sight having prevented him from revising his manuscripts on Terrestrial Magnetism, the editor of the English translation has appended notes to particular passages that seemed to require comment or elucidation. Some of these notes refer to topics of great practical importance, such as those connected with compass variations, and the changes of magnetic declinations. Colonel Sabine assures us that every possible provision is now made, both as regards practical rules and personal superintendence, against danger from compass variations in the ships of the royal navy:—

"But there exists as yet no similar provision for the great mercantile marine of this country, of which iron ships and steamers now form a notable portion. The Editor gladly avails himself of this opportunity of expressing his entire concurrence in the opinions of M. Arago, that in all large ports, at least, in which vessels are equipped, a competent person should be appointed, whose duties should be,—to select in every ship an advantageous position for a standard compass, combining the two requisites in such selection of a manageable local attraction, and of convenient access for navigating the ship; to determine experimentally the local deviations of the standard compass in different azimuths; to instruct the master how to repeat the same on future occasions; and to see that he rightly and thoroughly understands the deduction of the true magnetic courses from those of the standard compass, and of the course by the standard compass corresponding to the true course which he desires to steer. The performance of these duties on the part of the person so appointed to be imperative, at least in all cases of iron ships and steamers, by a regulation that no such ship should be permitted to leave the port until a certificate should be produced that they have been duly performed."

M. Arago's discovery of 'rotation-magnetism,' since merged in Faraday's wider generalization of 'induced currents,' has also proved of great practical service to navigation. In a chapter on 'means of improving compass observations at sea,' Arago thus proposed the use of copper for reducing the range and number of the oscillations of the needle:—

"There exists, however, a means, independent of the mode of suspension, of diminishing the number and extent of the vibrations of a needle by the help of which oscillations of 90° are almost instantaneously reduced to 1° and less, without in the least degree impairing the mobility of the needle. This means is a result of the discovery which I made of the phenomena of rotation-magnetism. Plates of copper, suitably arranged, would effect this object. Instruments which should secure this valuable practical result would not be difficult of construction, and when prepared, it is highly desirable that they should be submitted to the decisive test of experience under the care of practised seamen. To determine the latitude in cloudy weather by the sole aid of the dipping needle,—and both latitude and longitude by the single observation of the declination,—in parts of the globe where the course and direction of the magnetic lines permit this to be done, would be to introduce a new feature in the art of navigation."

The application of this discovery has been in use in the British navy since 1839, when a committee was appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty to investigate the subject. Col. Sabine gives, in a footnote, some of the results of the experimental researches of two members of that committee, Sir James Clark Ross and Capt. Edward Johnson, and describes the principle of the present construction of ship-compasses in this respect. Plates of copper, as suggested by Arago, would have been inconvenient, because the compass requires to be read from above,

and (on board a man-of-war) to be lighted at night from below, that no light may be visible on deck. Therefore, the top and bottom of the compass-bowl are necessarily of glass; but the cylindrical part of the bowl is made of copper one-tenth of an inch thick, carefully turned so as to permit the needle to vibrate freely, but with its poles as near as possible to the copper without touching it."

We quote these merely as specimens of the points on which Colonel Sabine had added acceptable editorial notes. On the question of the connexion between the aurora and magnetic disturbances, on which there has been some warmth of controversy, and in reference to which Arago was attacked by Sir D. Brewster with a violence of language to which the Scottish philosopher is too prone, Colonel Sabine pronounces the following guarded judgment:—

"The intelligent reader will have remarked that all that the facts cited by M. Arago can be considered to demonstrate or establish is the coincidence of magnetic disturbances at Paris with auroras visible in other parts of the globe. Of this coincidence the facts cited leave no doubt; and corresponding facts, in regard to the contemporaneous occurrence of auroras in one place and magnetic disturbances in another, have been very extensively observed elsewhere. The observations at the British Magnetic Observatories have manifested that magnetic disturbances sometimes continue without intermission for several days together, even for seven or eight days together, the continuity throughout being shown by one or other of the magnetic elements, sometimes by one and sometimes by another. By M. Arago's supposition, viz., that the magnetic disturbance is caused by an aurora either at the place itself or in some other place, it would be necessary to suppose that, during the whole of such lengthened periods of disturbance, auroras are visible in some part or other of the earth's surface. This it would manifestly be very difficult either to prove or to disprove. But even were it proved, it would not demonstrate or establish that the aurora is the cause of the magnetic disturbance, any more than it would prove that the magnetic disturbance is the cause of the aurora. Much more is required to be known before we can hope to form a certain conclusion in regard to the nature and extent of the causal connexion which we may readily admit to exist between the two phenomena."

The 'Meteoro logical Essays' of Arago are extremely interesting to the general reader as well as valuable to scientific men. The Memoir on Thunder and different kinds of lightning has long been popularly known, and in its present form contains numerous additions, dictated to M. Goujon, his secretary, during his last illness. To the present volume is prefixed an introduction, and a biographical sketch by Baron Humboldt, of which we have already given a notice, when it appeared in one of the numbers of the Traveller's Library. The first volume of Arago's Popular Astronomy, edited by Admiral Smyth and Mr. R. Grant, comprising the first and second volumes of the French original, will appear soon in this English edition of his works.

NOTICES.

The History of Napoleon Bonaparte. By John S. C. Abbott. With Maps and Illustrations. 2 vols. S. Low, Son, and Co

ADMIRATION amounting to the most extravagant and indiscriminate hero-worship, is the characteristic of this History of Napoleon. Mr. Abbott not only celebrates his military genius and his intellectual greatness, but ascribes to him in the highest form every virtue of heart and excellence of character. *Magna virtus et magna virtus* has

been generally the conclusion at which the warmest admirers of Napoleon have been content to arrive in estimating his whole life and history. But this American writer outvies the most enthusiastic French Napoleonist in his panegyrics. Englishmen of the present day will not complain of this exaggeration. It was so long the custom in this country to vilify and calumniate Napoleon, that the reaction is naturally strong in the opposite direction. English historians, such as Alison and Scott, have given currency to many of the unfair traditional feelings of the period of the war. The military historian, Napier, has taken a far more just and generous estimate of Napoleon. Mr. Abbott makes use of these, as well as of French writers, in the compilation of his work, which contains a vast number of historical facts and personal anecdotes. The spirit of ill-feeling towards England is too apparent through the narrative, and the author speaks as if still there prevailed in this country a desire to interfere with the internal government of France, and a dislike of the name of Napoleon. The firmness and cordiality of the Anglo-French alliance has probably disabused him of this notion, and the sympathy of the Americans for the Russians is as strange and discreditable a political feeling as was the violence of England in former days in behalf of the worthless Bourbons. Mr. Abbott's History is embellished with numerous illustrations.

On the Smokeless Fireplace, Chimney-Valves, and other means, old and new, of obtaining Healthy Warmth and Ventilation. By Neil Arnott, M.D., F.R.S. Longman and Co.

On all matters pertaining to healthful warmth and ventilation, Dr. Arnott is the highest authority, and this volume embodies the results of his most extended and most recent researches. Various inventions and contrivances, founded on scientific principles, are here minutely described. How to get smokeless fires, with the smallest consumption of fuel; how to secure good ventilation without draughts and unequal temperature; how to regulate the atmosphere of hospitals, factories, and public buildings as well as private dwellings, and many other problems of immense economical importance, are solved by Dr. Arnott in this most practical treatise. Besides the directions for the proper construction of houses, rooms, and fireplaces, there occur throughout the work many useful hints on methods of preserving health deserving general attention, and delivered in a familiar style intelligible to every reader. It is a most valuable work.

Ireland's Recovery. An Essay. By John Locke, B.A. John W. Parker and Son.

THERE prevails in England a general impression that the condition of Ireland has greatly improved within the last few years, though many may not have a clear knowledge of the amount or the causes of the amelioration. Mr. Locke's most instructive and satisfactory essay explains and describes the whole matter. The year 1851 seems to have been the turning time of Ireland's fortune. "The famine period," says Mr. Locke, "appears to have filled up the measure of Ireland's misfortune and punishment together; and the opening year of the half-century witnessed, with the extinction of political animosities, the rise of an industrial activity, destined, if pursued with unswerving aim, to lay a firm foundation for future prosperity." Under the heads of Emigration, Labour, Pauperism, Crime, Education, Agriculture, Commerce, Trade, Manufactures, Mineral Resources, and Fisheries, ample descriptive and statistical accounts are given of the state of the country, the general character of the statements indicating steady social progress. There is decrease of pauperism, and decrease of crime; emigration has reached that degree which is beneficial to the labour-market at home without impoverishing the population; education is rapidly spreading; and the progress of agriculture and manufactures, and of many branches of industrial art, is most encouraging. Of the working of the Incumbered Estates Commission a full report is given, with practical suggestions for its more effective operation. The appendix con-

tains official returns and other documents in support of the statements of the essay, a former edition of which elicited the hearty approval of many who are most deeply interested in Ireland's welfare. Among these testimonies we do not know which is most honourable to Mr. Locke—a letter of abuse from John Mitchell, or a letter of praise from William Dargan. The facts concerning 'Ireland's Recovery' speak for themselves. In his previous works on Ireland, and in his valuable communications to the Statistical Society and to the British Association, Mr. Locke has established for himself the reputation of being a well-informed and trustworthy authority on Irish affairs. A Parliamentary Commission specially appointed for the purpose would probably not have produced a more instructive and practical report on the state of Ireland than is presented in this brief but compact and suggestive essay.

SUMMARY.

To those of our readers interested in the higher branches of metaphysical studies, we recommend a treatise lately published by a French writer, Dr. A. Vera (Dulau and Co.), *Introduction à la Philosophie de Hegel*, in which the results of some of the later speculations of the German school are stated and discussed with much clearness. In the concluding lecture, entitled 'L'Etat, l'Art, la Religion, et la Philosophie,' an attempt is made to show the bearings of the metaphysical ideas on practical affairs, and the relations of speculative and active life.

In a volume entitled *The Prophets, or Mormonism Unveiled* (Trübner and Co.), new revelations are made of the social condition of this strange people, apparently founded on real knowledge, though it is difficult to tell how far the facts are embellished in order to gratify public curiosity. A literal and matter-of-fact account of Mormon life would be unfit for publication, and therefore some liberty is allowable to authors, whose deviations from actual truth are more likely to be on the side of decency than otherwise. The most valuable and curious part of this volume is the authentic account it gives of the personal history of Joseph Smith, and the other founders and leaders of the sect.

A descriptive and statistical work, *Esquisse sur le Canada considéré sous le Point de Vue économiste*, by J. C. Taché, Member of the Canadian Parliament, has been drawn up at the request, and published at the expense of, the government of the Province for circulation in Europe (Dulau and Co.), chiefly with the view of encouraging emigration, by an authentic statement of the condition and resources of the country.

In the form of a letter to Samuel Morley, Esq., chairman of the Administrative Reform Association, Mr. W. S. Lindsay, M.P., has put on record a *Confirmation of Admiralty Mismanagement* (Effingham Wilson), with statement of charges made at the Drury Lane meeting, and in the House of Commons, now substantiated by authentic and detailed dates and documents, from official papers, and other sources.

An essay read before a Young Men's Society by George Fordham, *The Age we Live in: a Glimpse at Men and Manners* (Kent and Co.), bears evidence of shrewdness of observation and freedom of thought, but a style less colloquial and familiar should be adopted in any future composition which the writer may offer to public view. A pleasing and useful little tale, *Midsummer Eve*, is published (Masters and Co.), by the author of 'Harry and Archie.'

A poetical satire, *Lake Leman* (Madden), emulous of the style of 'English Bards and Scotch Reviewers,' is directed mainly against some contemporary periodicals, with personal allusions of a kind not sanctioned by the usages of honourable literature.

A collection of early notices of English ecclesiastical history, by Caroline Catherine Lucas (Bell and Daldy), forms a little treatise, *The Church of England not descended from the Church of Rome*,

the design being to prove that Christianity was established in this country long before the mission of St. Augustine, and that the Reformation was but a restoration of primitive faith and practice. The authorities are carefully cited, and a chronological index of events is appended.

Part II. is issued of Dr. Cane's *History of the Williamite and Jacobite Wars in Ireland* (Hennery). In this number is commenced the account of the famous siege of Derry, the interesting narrative being illustrated by a plan of the town, and other papers relating to the affair. In a note to a previous chapter some curious notices are given of the history of the celebrated song 'Lillibulero,' which Macaulay says overthrew the Jacobite dynasty, and of which Burnet declared that "it made an impression on the army that cannot be well imagined by those who saw it not; the whole army, and at last all people, both in city and country, were singing it perpetually." As late as the days of Sterne it was a popular favourite, as he introduces it in *Tristram Shandy*. Many have not seen the words or heard the air of this historical ballad. Dr. Cane gives the version from the 'Ballad Poetry of Ireland.'

Part XVI. of *The Dictionary of Practical Medicine*, by James Copland, M.D., F.R.S. (Longman and Co.), with various articles of value to professional men, contains the commencement of an elaborate treatise on Tubercular Consumption, which many general readers will consult with deep interest.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Bernays' (A.) First Lines in Chemistry, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Bohn's British Classics; Defoe's Works, Vol. 5, 3s. 6d.
— Classical Library; Pliny's Letters, Vol. 5, 5s.
— Scientific Library; Stockhardt's Chemistry, 5s.
— Stand, Lib.; Smyth's French Revolution, Vol. 1, 3s. 6d.
Chalmers' Select Works, 11th half Vol., sewed, 2s. 6d.
Denny's (E. N.) Alpha, 1s. 6d., Svo, boards, 1s. 6d.
Galbraith and Houghton's Manual of Astronomy, 12mo, 2s.
Gleig's (Rev. G. R.) Chelsea Pensioners, 8vo, 2s.
Haviland's (A.) Climate, &c., Svo, cloth, 7s.
Heartsease, 1 vol., post 8vo, cloth, 4th edition, 6s.
Holden's (L.) Human Osteology, 8vo, cloth, 16s.
Krause's Sermons, Vol. 3, post 8vo, cloth, 5s.
McCrie's (T.) Works, Vol. 1, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
Mann's (R.) Lessons, 2nd series, 12mo, boards, 1s.
Napoleon III., Life of, 12mo, boards, 1s.
Nott's (J.) Dutchmen's Sermons, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
Oke's (G. C.) Friendly Societies' Manual, 12mo, boards, 6s.
Smyth and Thullier's Manual of Surveying for India, £2 2s.
Sweet's (G.) Limited Liability Act, 12mo, boards, 9s.
Thackeray's Coursey's Guide, 1854-5, 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
Winslow's (O.) Inner Life, 12mo, cloth, new edition, 4s. 6d.
— Midnight Harmonies, 18mo, new ed., 2s. 6d.

WATCHING AND WAITING.

EVER weeping at the casement,—
Ever looking, leaning out;
While the village, in amazement,
Wonder what this grief's about!

With the morn-light, gray and dreary,
Long ere waketh bird or bee,
Mary stands, with spirit weary,
Gazing out upon the sea.

There, until the west sun gloweth,
Lists she to each breeze that blows;
But the wind, though much it knoweth,
Telleth no one what it knows,—
No one—no one—what it knows.

On a coast forlorn, forsaken,
Dug by hard and hasty hands,
Near a low cross, rudely shapen,
Rests a grave upon the sands!

Never wing of bird comes near it,
Nothing but the billows' roar;
And a voice,—the night stars hear it,—
Sighing, "Mary, never more!"

Still, until the west sun gloweth,
Mary lists each breeze that blows;
But the wind, though much it knoweth,
Telleth no one what it knows!
No one—no one—what it knows.

CHARLES SWAIN.

EXAMINATION PAPERS SET TO THE CANDIDATES FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE OF INDIA.

On the 16th of July, 118 candidates appeared at King's College, to compete for twenty appointments in the East India Company's service. Having assembled in the large hall, they were addressed by Mr. Vernon Smith, on the general nature and objects of the proceedings, and the details and order of the examinations were then explained by Sir James Stephen. We need hardly say that the details of this examination have a peculiar interest. It has been the first great experiment in practical administrative reform, and perhaps as such it marks a political epoch in this country. It is not, however, with its political, but with its literary and scientific character we have to deal. We shall merely examine its pretensions as a test of merit.

The examination was on the following branches of knowledge, in any number of which a candidate was at liberty to compete. The merits of the answers were estimated by the ordinary system of markings, and the number set opposite to each subject denoted the greatest mark which could have been obtained in it.*

English Composition	500
English Literature and History	1000
Language, Literature, & Hist. of Greece	750
" " " Rome	750
" " " France	375
" " " Germany	375
" " " Italy	375
Mathematics, pure and mixed	1000
Chemistry, Electricity, and Magnetism, Natural History, Geology, and Mineralogy	500
Logic, Mental, Moral, and Political Philosophy	500
Sanskrit	375
Arabic	375
	6875

At a meeting of examiners it was resolved that the order of examination should be regulated by the number of candidates in each subject. On this account mathematics came before the modern languages, and the moral before the natural sciences. It was also very properly resolved, that the time allotted to each subject should be regulated by its maximum number of marks. The candidates could thus allow five hours for any paper which could give them five hundred marks, and so on, at the rate of a quarter of an hour for every twenty-five marks. With the exception of a few minutes for each of the modern languages, there was no *viva voce* examination; and the candidate was requested to mark each book or sheet of paper on which his answers were written, not with his name but with a number drawn by lot. The examination closed on the 28th of July, and the result was announced to each candidate by letter on the 5th of August.

The classical papers were full and searching. They combined the proper amount of collateral questions with the translations from and into English. The three stanzas from Shakespeare's 'Venus and Adonis,' which were set for the Latin verse, were admirably chosen. The historical questions, both on Greece and Rome, were good; and, on the whole, Messrs. Rawlinson and Congreve deserve much credit for preserving the proper mean, neither giving questions too difficult nor too easy. We regret we cannot say the same of the mathematical papers. Whilst the first of them contained questions which any man who had passed a matriculation at one of our universities would have been able to answer, the fourth, we undertake to say, would puzzle many of our mathematical medalists. Nothing could have been better than the second and third papers, and if the examination consisted only of these we would have no fault to find with it. We may even go farther and say, if the mathematical examination be taken by itself, if we forget the relation it should have had to the other

subjects, that the four papers are highly deserving of praise. But when we remember the circumstances, and the real object of the examination, we see at once that the mathematical candidates were placed at a disadvantage. Let us compare their position with that of the classical candidates. Out of each of the six classical papers, we are quite certain that any man possessed of a fair knowledge of Latin and Greek, would have been able to answer at least more than one-tenth. But a man should have a decidedly fair knowledge of the subject to be able to do this. On the other hand, a mere smatterer in mathematics, as most of our classical men are, could have answered probably a fifth or a sixth in the first mathematical paper, whilst many a man with a fair knowledge of his business could not have answered half a question on the fourth. Now, as we believe no candidate was allowed credit for marks on any paper unless he had answered at least a tenth of the questions, it is clear that the two great rivals were not evenly balanced. The result was, that whilst the seven best classical men were amongst the twenty successful candidates, the best mathematical men were amongst the unsuccessful. This we believe to be the true explanation of the fact, that whilst Oxford, with nineteen candidates, carried off eight prizes, Cambridge with thirty-two, secured only six.

The papers in French, Italian, and German, are good; and the examiners acted judiciously in devoting a quarter of an hour to each candidate for a *viva voce* test. It is to be regretted that oral examination was not used in the other subjects. The whole proceeding was for the purpose of testing the relative abilities of the candidates. No doubt, absolute knowledge is a very good test of such ability; but that is no reason why another very good test, readiness in imparting that knowledge *viva voce*, should have been overlooked.

The papers in natural science were both theoretical and practical. In botany the candidate was required to refer certain plants to their respective natural orders. In chemistry he was required to name the metals with which certain beads of borax had been fused. In mineralogy and geology specimens were also submitted to him.

The examiners in moral science deserve credit for the method as well as the matter of the examination. For instance, in their first paper, to which two hours and a half only could be given, the whole of logic and metaphysics had to be disposed of. It was assumed by the examiners, and we think very properly, that in two hours and a half no more than ten good questions could be answered. Accordingly, though twenty questions were given, they were divided into groups of two, and the candidate was permitted to answer but one in each group. Giving a candidate, in this way, a choice of questions, makes his examination full without allowing it to press too much upon his time. The examiners in natural science appear to us to have committed a mistake in not adopting this principle. Chemistry is too extensive a subject to have been dealt with in a satisfactory manner by five questions. A knowledge of electricity or of magnetism could hardly have been tested by two questions each. If the time allotted for these subjects was short, the remedy, as used by the examiners in moral science and in mathematics, was very simple.

The examination in English history, literature, and composition, was the most important. It was at the same time the most difficult to manage properly. Sir James Stephen and Mr. Temple deserve much credit for the manner in which it has been done. Nothing could be better than the paper on English history. It must have driven from the field at once all who had not a *bond fide* knowledge of the subject. No amount of cramming could have got over it. The superficial bundle of facts, tied up with a string of dates, which so many people carry about with them, could avail nothing. From our analysis it will be seen that this paper was very full, and yet exact. Each question was clearly and logically defined, and no pains were spared to prevent the candidate from misunderstanding the examiner.

The 1st question was on the Wittena Gemot, the

2nd on the descent of some of the kings, the 3rd is characteristic of the whole paper:—

"3. In the romance of 'Ivanhoe,' Sir Walter Scott has illustrated and embellished the historical theory, which throughout his history 'De la Conquête de l'Angleterre,' M. Thierry has laboured to establish. That theory is, that the true interpretation of the course of political events in England from the Norman Conquest to the accession of John is to be found in the animosities which, during the whole of that period, prevailed between the Saxon and the Norman inhabitants of the kingdom. Now the action of the romance being supposed to happen in the reign of Richard I., what are the historical occurrences of that reign from which the theory of Sir Walter Scott and of M. Thierry may derive either an effectual support or a plausible countenance?"

The 4th question referred to the capacity in which Edward I. decided the dispute about the Scottish crown, and the facts and principles connected with his decision. The 5th was on the Statute of Treasons. The 6th, 7th, and 8th, were admirable:—

"6. When, where, and by what authority, and with what designs, was 'Poyning's Law' enacted? What were the more material provisions of it?"

"7. Recapitulate, as briefly as possible, the chief incidents in the political life of Sir Thomas More."

"8. During the reigns of James I. and of the succeeding monarchs of England till the year 1800, a long, though not unbroken, series of statesmen became, one after another, though under various official designations, the chief or most powerful ministers of the Crown. Exhibit in chronological order, a list of those statesmen, with the date of the commencement and of the close of the administration of each (the date, that is, of years, not of months or days), placing in that list a single name only in respect of any one and the same period of time."

The 9th question referred to the great case of ship-money, the 10th to the concessions offered by Charles during the Civil War, and the 11th to the trial of Sir H. Vane. The 12th was on the circumstances which occasioned the remarkable departure from the ordinary course of English diplomacy in the management of the Treaty of Dover and the Treaty of London in 1670. The 13th and 14th required a good knowledge of constitutional history:—

"13. The practice now invariably observed by Parliament of directing to what specific uses the money granted by the Crown for the public service is to be appropriated, and the further practice of taking effectual securities against the diversion of any part of such grants to any other purposes, are usages which (1) had their earliest origin in the times of the Plantagenets; which (2), after a long interval, were revived in the times of the Stuarts; and which (3) were so revived, at one time by the express suggestion, at another with the decided approbation, of the kings of the house of Stuart. What are the facts by which each of these statements may be verified?"

The 14th sets out by dividing the Declaration of Rights into 12 heads, it then says:—"Under each of the twelve heads in the preceding abstract, indicate, in the most concise and general terms, and without entering into any details, some one historical occurrence which had taken place during the lives of some of the members of the Convention Parliament, and to which each such head may be reasonably supposed to refer."

The 15th question brought out each of the important facts connected with the 'Drapier's Letters' very clearly.

"15. What were the principal questions, both of fact and of right, to the discussion of which the 'Drapier's Letters' were devoted? In what respect, and to what extent, were the principal and material facts of the case correctly or incorrectly stated in those letters? What was the secret proceeding (whether real or supposed) which, though not mentioned in the 'Drapier's Letters,' contributed largely to the exasperation of the public mind in Ireland on that occasion? In what manner did the

* See article on the Education for the Civil Service of India ('Lit. Gaz.' 1854, p. 1114), in which the Report of the Commissioners is discussed.

controversy at length give rise to a question of great and enduring national importance? and what was that question?

The 16th, which closed the examination on English History, referred to the dispute with the American Colonists, and Franklin's examination before the House of Commons, in 1766.

Mr. Temple's paper on English Literature commences by marking out four periods from the Reformation to the present day. The Candidate is then directed to "Give a classified list of the great literary names in each. Describe very briefly the leading characteristics of each. Mention, also, very briefly, the most important influences, foreign and domestic, to which each was subject."

The great objection to such an outline question as this, is, that it tends to encourage superficiality. It is one of those questions which can never be combined with depth. There are certain cases where an examiner is perfectly justified in asking merely for an outline. But such cases occur only when he has gone pretty deep into his subject. The 7th question in the English History paper will illustrate this. On the other hand the 4th question on the History of France is an example of the class to which we object.

"Give an outline of the reign of Louis XIV., from his accession to the throne to the peace of Utrecht."

Any one who had given a few weeks' study to the most elementary text-book in French History, may have been able to answer this, perhaps, as well as one of the best historians at the examination. No doubt there was so much to be done in the French paper that there was not time to ask anything except an outline of such a very important reign. But would it not have been better, under such circumstances, to have left out the question altogether, than to give it in such a shape? We object to such questions also on the ground that they are not definite enough. As every candidate may have a different idea of what is meant by an outline, there must be some difficulty in comparing the answers. For his own sake, as well as for that of the candidate, the examiner should do all in his power to avoid ambiguous terms.

The rest of Mr. Temple's paper is very good.

"2. Give an account of the English dramatists immediately before and immediately after the time of Shakspere."

"3. Write out the plot of the *Merchant of Venice*. Compare the character of *Shylock* with that of *Barabas* in Marlowe's *Jew of Malta*."

The 4th gives a number of passages from Shakspere to be explained.

"5. Compare the 'Utopia' of Sir Thomas More with the 'New Atlantis' of Bacon; point out which of them appears now to correspond most closely with the truth of history, and mention any other writings which illustrate their subject."

The 6th gives a number of passages from Milton to be explained.

"7. Sketch the plan of the 'Faerie Queen,' and quote instances to show Spenser's power of describing nature. It has been said that Milton and Spenser have never been popular poets; can you give any reason for this?

"8. Compare the style of Clarendon, Hume, and Gibbon; and illustrate your comparison, if you can, by quoting a character or a narrative from each."

Mr. Temple's second paper is also good:—

"1. Give an account of the life and writings of Dryden. What was the chief effect which he produced upon English poetry?

"2. Write out Johnson's celebrated comparison of Dryden and Pope, and illustrate it from their writings.

"3. Explain the following quotations from Pope."

These, as well as the passages from Shakspere and Milton, were well chosen. No one could hope to explain them who had not studied and appreciated the original. In university physiologe, it was a style of question which none but a very clever fellow could 'bottom.' Very few, we suspect, recognised *Buckingham*, in quotation 3—

"Such was the muse whose rule and practice tell
Nature's chief masterpiece was writing well."

"4. Narrate the history of the composition of the 'Rape of the Lock.' From what source did Pope obtain the machinery of that poem?

"5. Give an account of the rise and decline of Periodical Essays."

A very nice question indeed. We wonder did any of the candidates in answering it allude to the fact that Periodical Essays are even still kept up, but under the mask of Quarterly Reviews.

"6. Give an account of the life and writings of Burke. Write out the character given to him by Goldsmith in the 'Retaliation,' and illustrate it by facts.

"7. Sketch the history of English novel writing.

"8. Give the plan of the Battle of the Books. What reason is there for not considering it quite original? What was the origin and what the issue of the controversy for the sake of which it was written?

"9. Mention the author, the work, and the substance of the context from which the following common quotations are taken."

This is a very capital test. Any man who could go through it properly, giving the context, as well as the name of the work and the author, would have a sound knowledge of our literature. Most of these quotations are, perhaps, too common. Our readers can exercise their memories on some of them:—

"To make a virtue of necessity."
"In maiden meditation, fancy free."
"Brevity is the soul of wit."
"The master passion in the breast,
Like Aaron's serpent, swallows all the rest."
"Whatever is, is right."
"By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals."
"Her feet beneath her petticoat,
Like little mice stole in and out,
As if they feared the light."
"Give me a look, give me a face,
That makes simplicity a grace."
"Come and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe."
"Coming events cast their shadows before."
"And whistled as he went for want of thought."

On the whole, these were sensible papers. We know that many may be offended at not meeting half-a-dozen questions on Chaucer, or not seeing a few difficult passages from Cadmon in them. But we confess, though we venerate as we ought the fathers of our language, that we think they are not exactly suited for this sort of examination. In this case we would rather see a candidate display a good knowledge of Shakspere, of Pope, or of Burke, than of all the writers from Gildas to Lydgate.

In English composition there were two papers, one set by Sir James Stephen, the other by Mr. Temple. Each tested three distinct styles. Sir J. Stephen commenced by giving a passage from Mr. Hallam's 'Constitutional History,' on the question whether great offences against the commonwealth may not justly incur the penalty of death, by a retrospective act of the legislature, which a tribunal restrained by known laws is not competent to inflict; and the candidate was desired to "Discuss and resolve that problem, and, in the investigation of it, adhere closely to the style appropriate to logical or argumentative inquiry; avoiding the use of any topics or expressions tending to divert the mind from the precise conditions of the problem itself, or from the exact solution of it."

The next is a dialogue:—

"2. Let it be supposed that in the commencement of the year 1674, Clarendon, then living in exile at Rouen, receives a visit in that city from Gilbert Burnett, the future bishop and historian, and that a dialogue takes place between them there, on the results of the Restoration, so far as they had already been developed, and so far as the future development of them could be then foreseen. Write such an imaginary dialogue, adhering as

closely as may be to the modes of thought characteristic of each of the speakers."

The third is a letter, which, no matter how elegantly written, it would be rather dangerous to have in one's desk about a century ago:—

"The earliest intelligence of the arrival of the Pretender at Derby reached London on the 5th of December, 1745. Let it be supposed that on the 6th of that month, and before any further account of his proceedings had arrived there, a secret Jacobite in that city connected with the court of George II. wrote to a Jacobite friend in the country a letter (1) descriptive of the effect produced by this intelligence, both on the minds of some of the more eminent members of that court and on the public mind; and (2) expressive of the hopes entertained by the writer of a successful issue of the enterprise. Write this imaginary letter."

Mr. Temple also asked for a letter and for an essay. His second test, however, differed from Sir J. Stephen's:—

"2. Write as clear a description as you can of any large town with which you are well acquainted; giving, first, a bird's-eye view of the whole and of the surrounding country, and secondly, an internal picture obtained by walking through the principal streets and visiting the chief buildings."

A sensible essay on his 3rd exercise would be worth reading:—

"3. Discuss the best method of uniting the advantages of a comprehensive study of many subjects, and a profound study of one."

The candidate who could get through these six exercises in English composition, and do each of them well, might fairly be considered a man of ability. It might be expected that such a man would manage the business of the Indian Civil Service quite as well as one who displayed a thorough knowledge of the Integral Calculus, or a candidate who could write good Greek and Latin verses. Yet mathematics gets twice as many, and classics gets three times as many marks as English composition. We think this is wrong. We feel that in any scheme of examination in this country, the end and object of which is to get men of talent, no subject should be placed above English composition. It is the only particular test which can pretend to determine general ability. We are acquainted with profound classical scholars who are positive children when they come to mix in the world. We know mathematicians who seem never to have heard of the concrete or the practical. No doubt there are exceptions. But those exceptions are so rare that it is a dangerous experiment to risk the success of an examination on the chance of getting them. We have heard some talk about equalizing the marks in classics and mathematics. Perhaps the best way to settle the matter would be to take 500 from the former and add it to the English composition. The three of them would then be on the same level. But whatever alterations are made, there should, as we have before remarked, be more *viva voce* examination. We trust Mr. Vernon Smith's opinion on this subject will have more weight with the examiners in future.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE notice of the death of Sir Robert Adair brings the mind back to some very old historical and political recollections. About 1789, when Mr. Pitt was very properly suspicious of the ambitious designs of Russia, Mr. Fox most unaccountably stood forth as her defender; and such was the intemperate zeal of his opposition, that he sent Mr. Adair to St. Petersburg, though a private person, to encourage the Empress in her designs on Oczarkow. This was surely both violent and unconstitutional. Adair was nicknamed the Opposition Ambassador; and for this, and his keen Whigism in the revolutionary times that followed, he was the butt of many sarcastic remarks in the 'Anti-Jacobin.' We know not which of the young Tory poets claimed the authorship of the following lines, which display as much bitterness at least as wit. Here is part of an imitation of Horace's Transformation into a Swan:—

"I mount, I mount into the sky,
Sweet bird to Petersburg I'll fly,
Or, if you bid, to Paris;
Fresh missions of the Fox and Goose
Successful treaties may produce,
Though Pitt in all miscarries.
Scotch, English, Irish Whigs shall read
The pamphlets, letters, odes I breed,
Charmed with each bright endeavour.
Alarists tremble at my strain,
Even Pitt, made candid by champaign,
Shall hail Adair 'the clever.'

In another imitation we have:—

"Plain folks may be surprised and stare,
As much surpris'd as Bob Adair,
At Russia's wooden houses;
And Russian snows that lie so thick,
And Russian boors that daily kick,
With barbarous foot, their spouses."

So the wicked wit translates 'Ac pede barbarum lustratum Rhodopen.' The official employments of Sir Robert Adair were of a more useful and honourable kind. In 1806 he was sent as Minister Plenipotentiary to Vienna, and in 1808 on a special mission to Constantinople, whither he was accompanied by Mr. David Morier and Mr. Canning, now Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. He was Ambassador at Constantinople in 1809 and 1810. In 1831 he was sent on special missions to Brussels and to Berlin, being thus employed till 1835. Of his mission to Vienna he published a historical memoir (Longman and Co.), and a 'Memoir of the Negotiations for the Peace of the Dardanelles in 1808—1809,' (2 vols. Longman and Co.). He was also the author of various political pamphlets of some notoriety in their time. He entered the House of Commons as member for Appleby in 1802. He sat for Camelot in 1806 and 1807. For his diplomatic services he had a pension of 2000*l.* a year. Sir Robert Adair was the son of Mr. Adair, a well-known surgeon. He was born in May, 1763, so that he had attained his ninety-second year. To the last he was a regular attendant at the Fox Club dinners at the Thatched House; and the loyal old knight, when ninety-one years of age, paid his personal respects to Queen Victoria at her birthday levee in 1854.

The death of the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ellis, K.C.B., is announced, at Brighton, on the 28th ult. Sir Henry Ellis has long been known for his diplomatic services. After having served in subordinate situations, he was for a time the British minister at the court of Persia. He afterwards accompanied Lord Amherst in the celebrated Chinese embassy, and has recorded his observations, and his own subsequent adventures, in his 'Embassy to China' (2 vols. Murray); and a short account, 1 vol., W. Smith). In 1835 he was sent as envoy to the Brazils, and in 1849 to a conference at Brussels on the affairs of Italy. He was made a Privy Councillor in 1832, and in 1848 K.C.B. in the civil division. He had a public pension of 1400*l.* a year.

Mr. Thackeray is expected to depart on the 13th, on his American trip, with his lectures on the Four Georges. A farewell dinner is to be given to him on the 9th by some of his literary friends and admirers. Although this is properly a private entertainment, yet the publicity given to it invests Mr. Thackeray with something of the character of the representative of English literary men, in his visit to our transatlantic brethren. The story of the Four Georges he will, no doubt, make very entertaining to the Americans, but we have misgivings as to Mr. Thackeray possessing the manliness and public virtue to draw great historical lessons from his review of England in the eighteenth century. At a time like this, when great questions, affecting not England and America only, but the whole civilized world, occupy all minds, it will be a sad waste of talents and opportunity if Mr. Thackeray produces from his great historical theme mere literary gossip of the Strawberry Hill stamp.

There has been a great gathering this week at Birmingham, in the orthodox English form of a public dinner, of influential men who have taken prominent part in the cause of juvenile reformation. Sir E. E. Wilmot, Bart., presided, supported by Lord Lyttelton, Lord Leigh, Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., Mr. Muntz, M.P., Mr. Spooner,

M.P., the Mayors of Birmingham, Warwick, Evesham, and other official and distinguished persons. M. de Metz, the founder of the agricultural colony at Mettray, was present by invitation, and the speech of the evening was made by Lord Lyttelton in proposing his health; M. de Metz, in reply, reading a short statement on the object for which they were assembled. We take this opportunity of recommending to our readers a little volume by Mr. Jelinger Symons, barrister-at-law, 'On the Reformation of Young Offenders' (Routledge and Co.), containing a paper read by him at the Society of Arts, with the discussion that followed, and a collection of papers and documents in which full account is given of the Mettray Institution, and of similar establishments in this and other countries.

Dr. J. Henry is preparing for publication a 'Life of Dr. Dalton,' the founder of the atomic theory in chemistry. Some of the labours and writings of Dalton have lately been brought into renewed prominence, and his name is receiving, somewhat tardily, its due share in the honours of the history of science. At the opening meeting of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society last week, Mr. W. Fairbairn, C.E., presiding, two memoirs on Dr. Dalton were read; one by Dr. Angus Smith, giving a general sketch of his life and researches, and of the atomic theory; the other, by Mr. J. J. Wilkinson, an account of his early mathematical and philosophical writings.

The Rev. Benjamin Jowett, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Balliol, has been appointed Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford, in room of the late Dean of Christ Church.

Dr. Laycock, of York, has been elected Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, in room of Professor W. P. Alison, retired with the honorary title of Emeritus Professor.

The Glasgow papers announce the death of Mrs. Smith, Senior, of Jordanhill, on the 28th ult., aged 101 (ante, pp. 589, 605).

Camille Roquerplan, a French painter of considerable note, has died this week in Paris.

A musical enterprise is on foot, with objects and on a plan deserving to meet with public support and success. Under the Limited Liability Act, an association is about to be formed under the name of the National Opera Company, in the organization and arrangements of which some progress has already been made. As Trustees appear the names of the Duke of Leinster, John Benjamin Heath, Esq., and Augustus Walter Arnold, Esq. Auditors—Mr. Thomas Oliphant, Mr. J. Duff Committee of Management—Mr. A. Mellon, Conductor; Mr. Henry G. Blagrove, Leader; Mr. G. A. Macfarren; Mr. J. Palgrave Simpson; and Mr. A. B. Vyse. Secretary—Mr. J. W. Holland. In the preliminary announcement the objects of the Association are thus stated:—"The promoters of this undertaking, viewing the state of the lyrical drama in England as compared with that of even the smallest continental principality, propose to establish a permanent English Opera for the performance of works of British composers, and of such foreign operas as may seem most appropriate for the English stage. One of the great objects sought to be obtained is the employment of native talent, and the promoters feel that the progress of musical taste and education in this country warrants the belief that the time has now arrived for commencing so desirable and important an undertaking." A provisional agreement has been entered into with the proprietor of the Lyceum Theatre for a lease of that establishment. It is proposed that the capital of the company be 10,000*l.*, in 1000 shares of 10*l.* each; deposit 5*l.* per share on allotment. The returns at a tariff of prices given in detail, and supposing a season of forty weeks, with six representations a-week, are calculated as remunerative; and it is expected that the sum produced by the deposit of 5*l.* per share will amply suffice to carry on the undertaking. We should be sorry to throw any discouragement on a project so laudable, but we fear that the projectors will find that they take too sanguine a view of the probabilities of success. The average receipts of the

Lyceum Theatre for many years past do not afford ground for estimating the attractiveness of operatic performances, and the success of the Drury Lane experiment, at much lower prices of admission, is scarcely to be counted on. We doubt whether it will be possible to sustain a season of forty weeks, with any prospect of remuneration to the artists, far less of any dividend to the shareholders. But the names on the committee of management are good, and we shall watch with interest the further development of their plans.

The production of *Nitocris*, the Egyptian drama, at Drury Lane, announced for last Monday, postponed on account of "the stupendous nature of the preparations," is positively to take place on Monday, the 8th instant. On the same evening the winter season commences at the Adelphi, when Mr. Hudson, the Irish comedian, appears in *Rory O'More*. At the Haymarket, Mr. Stirling Coyne's drama, *The Man of Many Friends*, is still to the fore, and *Court Favour*, for the sake of Miss Blanche Fane; but the Spanish dancers have, through this summer as last, proved the chief attraction at this house. At Sadler's Wells, Mr. Phelps treats the lovers of Shakespeare at present with *The Tempest*, and the 'legitimate drama' is otherwise well sustained, *Virginius* being this week represented. The *Olympic* is shortly about to open, Mr. Wigan having summoned his company to meet in the green-room on Monday next. Among other amusements of the season, the *Fall of Sebastopol* at Astley's, and at the Surrey Gardens and Cremorne, tempts those who can find satisfaction in representations of such a subject. In the form of musical entertainment there is nothing at this time going on in London. At Edinburgh we hear that Grisi and Mario, and M. and Madame Gassier have given great delight to the lovers of operatic performances.

The new opera of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, *Sainte Claire*, has been produced at the Grand Opera at Paris. The subject of it turns on the adventures, partly real, partly imaginary, of the ill-fated Alexis, son of Peter the Great; but the construction of the plot is very faulty, and the *libretto*, translated from the German, is poor indeed. The music, on the whole, lacks originality—in some parts reminding the hearer of Weber, in others of Meyerbeer—but still it is very meritorious for a sovereign prince, who only writes *music en amateur*, and who naturally has not time for the hard study and incessant labour of the professional composer. Some of the airs, however, are really beautiful, and are probably destined to take a permanent place amongst the more popular *lieder* of Germany; the ballet music, of which there is no lack, is also remarkably fresh and charming. We observe with regret, that most of the Paris papers, especially those under the control of the Government, have indulged in fulsome flattery of the work—they seem to have been so much impressed with the condescension of a real reigning Prince consenting to appeal to the public of their great Opera-house for its opinion on a musical production, as to have forgotten entirely their critical functions. But the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha stands not in need of flattery; if his work has not attained perfection, it has still not fallen to mediocrity; and it has, at all events, entitled him to be judged seriously as a musical man, not praised as a Prince. The opera has been got up in splendid style; and the scenery and decorations are really magnificent, even for the Académie Impériale. It was this opera which it was at one time intended to have had produced during the Queen's visit to Paris.

The Choral Society of Cologne, the "Manner-Gesang-Verein," has commenced a series of concerts in Paris, under the direction of Mr. Mitchell, and it is, we are glad to hear, obtaining all the success its splendid vocal execution deserves. The great Rossini attended one of the rehearsals of the society a few mornings back, and he was delighted, declaring that for many years he had never heard such admirable singing.

The Italian Theatre in Paris has commenced its season under a new management, and with a troupe of which many members are new.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—*Sept. 17th.*—‘On the relations of the Crystalline Rocks of the North Highlands to the old Red Sandstone of that region, and on the recent Fossil Discoveries of Mr. C. Peach.’ By Sir Roderick I. Murchison, F.R.S. Having referred to his earliest publications relating to the Old Red Sandstone in 1826 and 1827 (being associated in the latter year with Professor Sedgwick), the author explained how the classification originally proposed by his colleague and himself had been extended and improved by the researches of Mr. Hugh Miller. Having stated that his matured and condensed views as to the true equivalents of the Old Red Sandstone being the Devonian rocks of other countries, were given in his last publication, entitled ‘Siluria,’ Sir Roderick called the special attention of the Section to the consideration of the true relations of these deposits to the crystalline rocks of the Highlands. To satisfy his mind on this point, and to see if it was necessary to make any fundamental change in his former views, the author has spent the last five weeks in re-surveying his old ground in Sutherland, Caithness, and Ross-shire, on which occasion he was accompanied by his friend Professor James Nicol. Obtaining ample evidence to induce him to adhere to his former opinion, that all the crystalline rocks of that region, consisting of gneiss, mica schist, chlorite, and quartzose rocks, limestones, clay slates, &c., were originally stratified deposits, which had been crystallized before the commencement of the accumulation of the Old Red Sandstone, he first gave a rapid and general sketch of those ancient rocks, whose crystalline character he thus attributed to a change or metamorphism of their pristine sedimentary condition. They have a prevalent strike, varying from N.E. and S.W. to N.N.E. and S.S.W., and in the northernmost counties of Scotland their prevailing inclination is to the E.S.E. or S.E., usually at high angles. In combating a theoretical idea which had only very recently been applied to the crystalline rocks of Scotland, viz., that their apparent layers were simply a sort of crystalline cleavage, by which the different minerals were arranged in parallel folia or laminae, and were independent of the original lines of deposit, he showed how every geologist who had long studied these rocks in Scotland had formed an entirely different opinion. Hutton, Playfair, Hall, Jameson, M’Culloch, and Boué, all believed that the variously constituted and differently coloured layers of these rocks truly indicated separate original deposits of sand, mud, and calcareous matter. He cited numerous cases of interstratified pebble-beds and limestones, as completely demonstrating of their true original status. Alluding to the real distinction between stratification and cleavage, as first defined by Professor Sedgwick, he expressed his belief that, whilst in no part of the Highlands did there exist that perfect and symmetrical fine crystalline cleavage which prevails in North Wales (the thick slates of Ballyhulish and Easdale usually cleaving in coincidence with the laminae of deposit), there was nevertheless a very marked and prevalent division of all such crystalline rocks into rhombic and other forms by rude cleavages and very decisive joints. Of both of these lines of division, as crossing the lines of colour or deposit, he gave examples from the primary limestones of Durness, in which fossils occurred, but which could in no case be mistaken for the true bedding—such bedding being always recognisable by the differently constituted and coloured layers of mineral matter, by proofs of mechanical action, by softer argillaceous way boards separating the stony masses, as well as by all the backs and joints which occur in ordinarily indurated deposits of well-known sedimentary age. In describing two traverses which he made across the direction of these crystalline rock masses in the north coast of Sutherland, the first twenty-eight years ago with Professor Sedgwick, the other in the weeks preceding this meeting with Professor Nicol, and in mentioning with due praise a memoir of intermediate date by the late Mr. Cunningham, it was stated, that the oldest or lowest visible stratified

rock in that region was a very hard, grey, quartzose gneiss, traversed by veins of granite, as seen on the shores of Loch Laxford, Cape Wrath, the escarpment of Ben Spionnach in Durness, and other places. At the last-mentioned locality and near Rispond, the older gneiss is unconformably overlaid by a copious series of quartz rocks of white and grey colours, occasionally passing into mica schists or flagstones, and also into stratified masses which are truly gneiss, inasmuch as they are composed of quartz, mica, or felspar. With a copious interstratification of bands of limestone near their lower parts, these crystalline rocks are very clearly exhibited between Loch Durness and the Whiten Head on the coast, or between Ben Spionnach and Loch Eribol in the interior. It is in one of the beds of limestone subordinate to the lower white quartzites of this great series, some courses of which range into Assynt, in south-west Sutherland, and to Gairloch, and Kishorn in Ross-shire, at Balmakiel in Durness, that Mr. Charles Peach recently discovered organic remains; and as their discovery has led to certain suggestions, including one which would consider these crystalline rocks as the representatives of the Devonian or Old Red Sandstone formation, the author begs to show why such an opinion seems to be untenable, and to point out that both from their physical position and the nature of the embedded remains, they are most probably of Lower Silurian age. For, whether the section be made across the various strata between Loch Durness and Loch Eribol, or from the latter to Loch Hope, the same limestones subordinate to quartz rocks of white and grey colours (including some rare coarse white grits, as in the summit of Ben Spionnach), and associated with many siliceous concretions (of various colours, red and dark grey), are distinctly and conformably overlaid by and pass up into micaceous quartzite and dark coloured schists, both chlorite and talcose, which are followed by others and differently composed stratified masses, having the character of gneiss. Along the north coast these overlying masses extend to the west shore of Loch Tongue, before they are interfered with by any mass of granite; and it is therefore unquestionably true that the band of limestone containing the fossil shells discovered by Mr. Peach, is one of the lowest members of this great crystalline series of stratified rocks of very diversified characters. It was suggested that the fossils in question, being of a whorled or circular form, might prove to be the Clymenia of the Devonian rocks; but this suggestion is now set aside by Mr. Salter, who, after a close examination of the fossils submitted to him by Sir Roderick Murchison, has unreservedly expressed his belief that they are not chambered shells, and cannot therefore be either Clymenia or Goniatites. Mr. Salter suggests that they much resemble the lower Silurian genus Maculaea, with which, however, they cannot be identified, as it is a sinistral shell, whilst the Durness fossil is dextral; and, on the whole, he is disposed to refer them to the genus Raphistoma, a shell which has been found in the lower Silurian limestones of Ayrshire (Girvan). So far, therefore, as the fossil evidence goes, it is in accordance with the geological succession of the region, and countenances the idea expressed some years ago by Professor Nicol and the author, that many of the stratified crystalline rocks of the Highlands would prove to be the metamorphized equivalents of the fossiliferous Lower Silurian rocks, of the south of Scotland. The author further reminded his auditors that the Clymenia had never been found in any rock of older age than the *uppermost division* of the Devonian rocks, —a stratum which in some districts exhibits a passage into the Lower Carboniferous division. Now, as the Durness fossils lie towards the base of the different crystalline rocks enumerated, it follows that, if they had proved to be really Devonian types, the geologist who looks to order of superposition, would in such case have been compelled to believe in an entire inversion of all the rock masses of the north of Scotland, inasmuch as the band containing the supposed upper Devonian type occupies a position below all the other rocks. Fortunately,

the fossil evidence removes all such confusion, and is in accordance with the order of superposition. In taking a comprehensive view of the great Scottish formation of the Old Red Sandstone, as composed, in ascending order, 1st, of coarse and often angular and brecciated conglomerates and sandstones; 2nd, of central masses of flagstone, impure limestones, bituminous schists; and 3rd, of superior sandstones, Sir Roderick took special care to advert to a feature in the older series of crystalline rocks of the west coast of Scotland, which still require to be more accurately defined than had hitherto been done. Professor Sedgwick and himself had formerly called attention to the occurrence, near Ullapool, of a red conglomerate coarse grit, subordinate to the crystalline rocks, but which must not be confounded with the true old red series, as developed on the north and east coasts of the counties of Caithness, Ross, Inverness, Nairn, Moray, &c. During his excursion of this year, Professor Nicol and himself saw, near Inchnabampf, in Assynt, a similar interposition of hard red conglomeratic grit, resting at once unconformably in the older gneiss; but bad weather prevented their ascertaining whether this mass, as exposed on the road to Loch Inver, is really surmounted by the quartz rock; nor were they able to determine the relations of the great red conglomerates of the mountains of Coul More, Sulvein, Coulbeg, and Canish, to their ancient red rock. He pointedly cautioned young Scottish geologists not to be led away by the notion, that all conglomerates made up of crystalline pre-existing rocks represented the so-called *old red* conglomerate, and particularly referred to the coarse red conglomerate of Gervan in Ayrshire, which Professor Nicol and himself had shown to be a part of the Lower Silurian series of the south of Scotland. Whilst, however, it is probable that the red conglomerate of the West Highlands, which is associated with the series of crystalline rocks, may be also of Lower Palaeozoic age; it is clear that even on that account the stupendous masses of red sandstone which constitute the mountains of Applecross and Gareloch are unquestionably of a younger date. Positive proofs of this were formerly given by Professor Sedgwick and himself from unconformable junctions of the two classes of rock in the West Highlands at Ullapool, and on the Eastern coasts also, where the oldest conglomerate and sandstone of the old red or Devonian age of Caithness clasps round the quartzose and micaceous rocks of the Scarabin Hills, and is made up of the materials derived from those crystalline rocks which are contiguous to it. He then expressed his firm conviction that, from the immense length of time which must have passed in its accumulation, the vast deposits called the Old Red Sandstone were the full and entire equivalents of the Devonian rocks of the south-west of England, and of the Rhenish provinces, and of large regions in other parts of Germany, as well as of France, Spain, and other countries. He strongly insisted on the fact, that in Russia, where he had traced such a very extensive range of rocks of this age, regularly interpolated between the Silurian and Carboniferous systems, there occurred a mixture of the same species of fossil fishes (Asteropterus, Dendroodus, Glyptosterus, Bothriolepis, Holopterychius cricodus, Pterichthys, &c.), which prevail in the north of Scotland, with the shells which characterize the formation in the slates and calcareous type which it assumes in Devonshire. He then announced that, in addition to the fossils previously elaborated and described by Mr. Hugh Miller, and other authors, a number of plants had recently been discovered, chiefly by Mr. C. Peach, of Wick, but also by Mr. J. Miller and Mr. Dick, of Thurso, in the very heart of the Caithness flagstones—the great fossil pisaria of the series. Of these plants, the large number of which Mr. Peach had submitted to him seemed to be of terrestrial origin, he hoped to obtain an account at a future period from Dr. Joseph Hooker, whom he had requested to write a decade upon them in the ‘Memoirs of the Geological Survey of the British Isles.’ The importance of correctly determining the character of these plants will be at

once seen when it is considered, that with the exception of the minute and rare vegetable forms detected by the author in the uppermost Silurian rocks, which form a passage into the Devonian rocks or Old Red Sandstone, these Caithness fossils are probably the oldest known and clearly recognisable land plants; it being believed that the fossil vegetables hitherto found in the so-called Old Red, chiefly occur in the upper meshes of the system. Such are certain plants discovered by Dr. Fleming and others in Shetland and Orkney; by the Geological surveyors in Ireland; and such is the position of the very remarkable and beautiful Flora detected by Mr. Richter of Sahlfield, in Germany, and which he alluded to last year, as being under the description of M. Unger, the celebrated fossil botanist of Gratz. The singular plant, however, formerly described by Mr. Hugh Miller as occurring in the Cromarty strata, must be considered to be of quite as old a date as the Caithness plants. In speaking of the uppermost member of the Devonian or Old Red Series, particularly as it is elaborated in Scotland, the author showed how, in many tracts, it constituted a great band of transition from the Devonian into the Lower Carboniferous System, and expressed his opinion, that as in many tracts no rigid or fixed line could be drawn between these two deposits; so in defining their mutual boundaries, the colours used in geological maps to represent the two deposits, in certain cases, are blended along their lines of union. The importance of a rigid search for fossils in the older Scottish rocks was then dwelt upon, and the great merit of Mr. C. Peach in detecting them was warmly extolled. This able explorer had formerly (in the hours of leisure abstracted from his laborious duties) thrown a new light on the structure of Cornwall, by his discovery of Lower Palaeozoic forms where no one had previously noted them, and now, at the very opposite extremity of Great Britain, and even in walking across the rugged promontories between Loch Durness and Cape Wrath, the same zealous person had detected those organisms in the old crystalline limestones which had given rise to so much conjecture; whilst in his evening rambles near Wick (during hours snatched from the duties of a controller of customs) he had collected that flora of the central masses of the Old Red Sandstone which was of deep interest in being of such very remote antiquity. In recapitulating, Sir Roderick again called special attention to the system of the older crystalline or metamorphic rocks, and expressed his conviction that the same series was several times repeated in the contiguous tracts of Sutherland and Ross by great heaves of the masses,—such breaks being marked by the chief lochs or friths. He also dwelt on the very remarkable fact, that in these two northern counties there was an apparent symmetrical succession from older to younger masses in proceeding from the west to the east coast. Even the physical watershed of one portion of the region, as seen in the steep precipices of the Balloch of Kintail, only four miles distant from the western salt water of Loch Duich, indicated no anticlinal; the flagstones of gneissose rocks plunging rapidly to the east-south-east, a feature which was as forcibly presented in many places to the recent observation of Professor Nicol and the author as it was to the latter and his former associate Professor Sedgwick. Where these ancient rocks are developed in the more southern portions of the Highlands, and where they usually still preserve the same general strike from north-east to south-west, as far north-north-east to south-south-west, their dips are, however, frequently anticlinal, owing to the powerful intrusion of massive igneous eruptive rocks; so that from Fort William or Ben Nevis southwards we have first in the porphyry of that mountain, and afterwards in the porphyries and syenites of Glencoe, or the granite of Ben Cruachan, as well as in other points still farther south, great centres of disturbance, by which the same series of quartzose, micaaceous, and chloritic rocks with limestones, and in which clay slate more prevails than in the north, is repeated in vast undulations, some of which dip to

the west-north-west and others to the east-south-east. One of the most southern of these anticlinal dips may be seen in the centre of Loch Eck, where the masses dip off to Strachur and Inverary on the north-west, and to the Clyde on the south-east. In conclusion, the author enforced his view of the posteriority of the Old Red Sandstone to all such crystalline rocks, by showing (as indeed Professor Sedgwick and himself had done many years ago) that the coarse conglomerates of the Old Red Sandstone series not only wrapped round those ancient rocks, but were absolutely made up of their fragments, and are seen in many places distinctly to overlie them, as at Loch Ewe, Gairloch, Applecross, &c. He further adverted to the great diversity of the strike and dip of the two classes of rock, and of their entire unconformity to each other, of which he cited an instructive example at the head of Loch Keeshorn, where the lofty massive mountains of the Old Red Sandstone of Applecross, the beds of which had a steady, slight inclination of ten or twelve degrees to the north-west, whilst the low flanking and conterminous primary limestones, quartzites, mica-schists, and gneissose rocks extending from Keeshorn to Loch Carron, plunge rapidly to the east-south-east. In short, whilst the limestone of Durness in Sutherland (identical in all its mineral characters and associations with quartzites with that of Keeshorn in Ross) is of very remote antiquity, and is probably from its fossils of Lower Silurian age, the base of the Old Red Sandstone forms a great belt composed of the regenerated materials of such older rocks, and distinctly overlies in a transgressive position the pre-existing crystalline rocks on the west, north, and east coasts of the Highlands. Referring in conclusion to the labours of Mr. Page, who had been zealously endeavouring to bring the Scottish Palaeozoic classification into accordance with that of England, the author remarked, that, in respect to the position of the English "Tilestones," there existed no sort of ambiguity. These "Tilestones" constitute a thin zone which exhibits in many places a mineral transition from the Upper Silurian rocks into the base of the Old Red or Devonian series, and in which we found one species of a fossil fish which occurs in unequivocal Old Red Sandstone, thin shells which range through the Ludlow rocks. They also contain forms of a remarkable genus of crustaceans, the pterygotus, which is known in the Arbroath paving stones of Forfar. If, indeed, these Scotch gray paving stones should prove to be the true representatives of the English tilestones (the species of pterygotus of each being identical), and that it be truly shown that the great conglomerate on the flanks of the Grampians underlies such Arbroath flagstones, then it will probably follow that a great coarse angular conglomerate of the Highlands, or at least part of it, represents in time some portion of the Upper Silurian rocks. With his present amount of knowledge, however, the geologist must believe that in this part of the Scottish Palaeozoic succession there is a great hiatus, since no suite of organic remains hitherto discovered has shown the presence of the Ludlow and Wenlock or Upper Silurian rocks, as exhibited in England, Sweden, Norway, Bohemia, and North America.

VARIETIES.

St. Goven's Bell.—The following legend is current in Pembrokeshire. On the south-west coast of Pembrokeshire is situated a little chapel, called St. Goven's, from the saint who is supposed to have built it, and lived in a cell excavated in the rock at its east end, but little larger than sufficient to admit the body of the holy man. The chapel, though small, quite closes the pass between the rock-strewn cove and the high lands above, from which it is approached by a long and steep flight of stone steps; in its open belfry hung a beautifully-formed silver bell. Between it and the sea, and near high-water mark, is a well of pure water, often sought by sailors, who were always received and attended to by the good saint. Many centuries ago, at the close of a calm summer evening, a boat entered the cove, urged by a crew

with piratical intent, who, regardless alike of the sanctity of the spot, and of the hospitality of its inhabitant, determined to possess themselves of the bell. They succeeded in detaching it from the chapel and conveying it to their boat, but they had no sooner left the shore than a violent storm suddenly raged, the boat was wrecked, and the pirates found a watery grave; at the same moment, by some mysterious agency, the silver bell was borne away, and entombed in a large and massive stone on the brink of the well. And still, when the stone is struck, the silver tones of the bell are heard softly lamenting its long imprisonment, and sweetly bemoaning the hope of freedom long deferred.—*Notes and Queries.*

Pilgrim's Progress.—We have just received from a friend in China, a copy of the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' translated into Chinese by the Rev. W. C. Burns, missionary of the English Presbyterian Church at Amoy. It is something near the size of demy 8vo, about half an inch thick, and is nicely printed on smooth yellow paper manufactured from rice straw. It is embellished by a number of illustrations, remarkably well executed; the figures and faces are quite Chinese. It is not printed with types, but each page is engraved on wooden blocks, which come to form a cheap and convenient stereotype. On account of the mass of population in China, the wages are extremely low, and this is evidenced by the price of this book, which, we understand, costs about 4d. per copy.—*Five Herald.*

Smithfield Market a Nuisance of Five Hundred Years' standing.—1380, 3 Richard II. "The gentlemen about Court, and others the frequenters and inhabitants of Smithfield and Holborn, make petition, that by reason of the great and horrible putrescence and deadly abominations ('grants et horribles puours et abominations morteles') day by day prevailing there, from corrupt blood, entrails of oxen, sheep, and pigs, slain in the butchery near the church of St. Nicholas at Newgate, and thrown into the various ditches of two enclosures (gardyns) near Holborn-bridge, the aforesaid people about the Court by the infection of the air have already suffered much disease, and humbly pray that for their own ease and quietness, as well as for the honour of the city, a penal ordinance shall compel the butchers henceforth to kill all their beasts at Knightsbridge; or wherever they shall not be a nuisance to the King's subjects, on the pain of forfeiting all animals killed at Newgate, and imprisonment for one year; and obliging the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to enforce judgment." To this petition it was replied, that there was already an Ordinance, enrolled in Chancery in the time of the late King Edward, designed to remedy the evil.—*Notes and Queries.*

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